Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

Reportage on ICO Foreign Ministers Meeting

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives

JN3107081290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Cairo last night leading the Syrian delegation to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers meeting, which will begin its work today. He was welcomed at Cairo airport by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and other senior officials.

In a statement upon his arrival, the foreign minister expressed his pleasure at visiting Cairo and his satisfaction that this conference is being held in Egypt. He thanked Egypt—the president, government and people—for hosting this important conference. He also expressed hope that conflicts between some Islamic states would be resolved by sincere dialogue and that the positive results of this conference will strengthen solidarity among Islamic states to confront the challenges of this age.

It is noteworthy that the Syrian delegation to the conference has prepared eight draft resolutions dealing with the major issues listed on the agenda. The Syrian draft resolution to be presented before the conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict includes a call to continue strengthening Islamic solidarity, establish an Islamic front for steadfastness, and support the struggle of the Arab people in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon to liberate their land from Israeli occupation. The Syrian Arab draft resolution stresses the need to continue efforts to hold the international peace conference in the Middle East under UN supervision to attain just and comprehensive peace. It calls on the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization to enforce the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report in this respect to the next conference.

The Syrian Arab draft resolution on the Golan calls for censuring Israel for not abiding by UN Resolution No. 197 of 1981 and reaffirms that Israel's decision to implement its laws, authority and administration in the Golan is illegal, null and void, and illegitimate. It also called for sharply denouncing Israel's continued efforts to change the legal character of the Syrian Arab occupied Golan as well as all its illegitimate measures. Moreover, it stressed Israel's racism and our defense of the UN resolution in this respect to affirm that Zionism is a form of racism in accordance with Resolution No. 3379 of 1975 issued by the UN General Assembly. The Syrian Arab resolution considers the U.S. call to abrogate this UN resolution a provocation to the Islamic states, a challenge to the credibility of the United States, and an encouragement to the belligerent Israeli policy.

Another Syrian Arab draft resolution denounced Israeli nuclear weapons and Israel's refusal to abandon them and abide by the nonproliferation treaty.

With regard to Jerusalem, a Syrian Arab resolution criticizes the U.S. Congress decision which considers Jerusalem the capital of Israel and says this decision challenges the feelings of the Arab and Islamic nation.

In yet another draft resolution, Syria repeated its proposal to hold an international conference to define terrorism in order to distinguish between terrorism and the struggle of people to attain national liberation.

On disarmament, the Syrian Arab draft resolution submitted to the conference called for stressing the importance of the participation of all states in the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and welcomes the Egyptian and Syrian proposals to declare the Middle East a region free of all weapons of mass destruction.

Another Syrian Arab draft resolution on Jewish emigration considered the campaign aimed at this emigration and forcing Jews to emigrate to Israel an act conflicting with all human principles. It also considered Israel's deportation and expulsion of Arab citizens from the occupied Arab territories an act defying the UN charter, the world declaration for human rights, and the principles of international law. It called on Islamic states to be vigilant and to take actions to confront the dangers of Jewish emigration and expose its dimensions.

Iraq's 'Aziz Not To Attend

JN2907181190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] Informed Egyptian sources have said that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz will not participate in the Islamic foreign ministers' conference scheduled in Cairo next Tuesday [31 July.]

This was conveyed to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry by Iraqi Ambassador Nabil Najm today. Iraqi Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab will lead his country's delegation to the conference.

The sources said 'Aziz will remain in Baghdad to follow up contacts for an Iraqi-Kuwaiti meeting to discuss the crisis between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Sharif Expects Resumption of U.S. Contacts

JN2907114590 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Doha—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, expects the U.S. Administration to resume contacts with the PLO shortly. He also expects

that the forthcoming phase will witness a qualitative leap in Palestinian-European ties.

In an interview published by the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH today, Abu-Sharif added that important contacts were recently held with the Italian, French, and British Foreign Ministries with a view to enhancing Palestinian-European ties.

In his interview, Abu-Sharif reiterated the PLO's rejection of Washington's terms for a resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. He also reaffirmed the PLO's adherence to its peace strategy, which he described as the most powerful weapon ensuring international sensitivity to and support for the Palestine question.

Sabri al-Banna Reportedly in Iraq

NC3007161590 Paris AFP in English 1608 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Beirut, July 30 (AFP)—A pro-Syrian Lebanese newspaper on Monday reported that extremist Palestinian leader Abu-Nidal, a staunch opponent of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, had returned to Iraq some 10 years after he was expelled from there.

"The Iraqi authorities have welcomed him in a bid to (use him to) exercise pressure permanently" on Mr.'Arafat, the AL-SHARQ newspaper said. The daily, citing "reliable sources" said the move indicated "the desire by the Iraqi regime to dominate even their closest allies."

Abu-Nidal, whose real name is Sabri al-Banna, was expelled from Iraq in 1980 at the request of Mr.'Arafat and moved on to Syria. The move came six years after Abu-Nidal broke with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream Fatah groups and founded his own Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC). In November of 1974, the PLO charged Abu-Nidal of corruption and diverting funds and sentenced him to death in his absence.

The PLO set up its military command in Iraq after it was ousted from Lebanon by an Israeli invasion in 1982 and Mr.'Arafat is a frequent visitor to Baghdad.

According to recent unconfirmed press reports Abu-Nidal had been living in Libya where he was being held for several months under house arrest.

The United States has accused Abu-Nidal and his Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) of being a major terrorist group responsible for attacks worldwide, with many of them aimed at Palestinians.

Washington requested and obtained in 1988 the closure of FRC offices in Syria, but the group still maintains an armed presence in Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon.

Some 50 FRC militants were evacuated from the Palestinian refugee camp of Al-Rashidiyah near the southern Lebanese port of Tyre in June following clashes there between Abu-Nidal's men and Fatah combatants loyal to Mr. 'Arafat.

Abu-Sharif on Contacts With Likud Official

NC2907074490 Paris AFP in English 0731 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, July 29 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation has recently had contacts with a senior official of the right-wing Likud bloc of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, an aide to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat said Sunday.

But Bassam Abu-Sharif refused to say when and where the meeting took place and declined to identify the PLO and Israeli officials that had talks.

Israeli law bans any contact with the Palestinian organisation, considered a terrorist group.

Mr. Abu-Sharif said that the Likud official told the PLO side that the right-wing group recently endorsed a political program supplanting a plan formulated last year by Mr. Shamir for elections among Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Likud has now adopted "another project to organise negotiations with a delegation representing Arab countries, within an international framework to be defined," Mr. Abu-Sharif said. He did not elaborate.

Mr. 'Arafat accused Israel on Saturday of attempting to organize an international conference on the Middle East that would leave out his organisation and strengthen the status quo in the region. [passage omitted]

Italy's De Michelis, Qaddumi at News Conference

LD2607205890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis described the meeting which took place between the EC troika delegation and the Palestinian leadership as successful. He said that during the meeting the process of strengthening the possibilities of the success of the Middle East peace process was discussed.

At a press conference after the meeting, he added that the situation in Lebanon and the economic difficulties facing the Palestinian citizens in occupied Palestine, as well as the possibility of pursuing peace and the possibility of resuming the Palestinian and U.S. dialogue, were studied.

De Michelis expressed the readiness of the EC to help restore the dialogue between the PLO and the United States.

On his part, brother Abu-Lutf [nom de guerre of Farouq Qaddumi], head of the Political Department at the PLO, affirmed at the same news conference that the Palestinian leadership explained to the European side the daily Israeli violations against the Palestinian people and the importance of joint international action to stop the acts of suppression and the Israeli violations.

The emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and their resettlement at the expense of Palestinian citizens was also discussed.

Brother Abu-Lutf called for an end to the massacres committed against the sons of the Palestinian people, pointing out at the same time that the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East is because of Israeli intransigence which rejects all the peace moves—an intransigence backed by the U.S. Administration. He gave an evidence the U.S. stand toward the draft resolution of the UN Security Council which calls for the despatch of an international committee of inquiry to the occupied Palestinian territories.

In reply to a question on the mission of the EC troika delegation, the Italian foreign minsiter said: We studied the situation in the occupied area and the possibility of finding a peaceful solution with the Israeli authorities and the PLO in order to form an attitude and an idea on the European side.

Brother Abu-Lutf warned against the continuation of the political deadlock in the area which might lead to an escalation in the (?intransigence) of both the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

PLO Official Asserts 'Solid' Ties With Egypt

JN2707100790 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 25 Jul 90 p 1

[By Ashraf al-'Ashri in Cairo]

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani has categorically denied recent reports on the existence of Egyptian-Palestinian differences.

He said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has sent a message to the Egyptian leadership exposing the fallacy of the odd statements attributed to him. He stressed that the PLO maintains a solid relationship with Egypt and with all the Arab countries.

Al-Surani rejected reports that Egyptian authorities have applied some pressure on the PLO to accept [U.S. conditions for] the resumption of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. This has not occurred, he said, adding that Egypt is a full partner with the PLO in all steps of the peace process. He asked: How can Egypt pressure the PLO? And in whose interest will it do this? He went on to say that the fire is now in the Palestinian frying pan, and it might spread to the Arab frying pan if we do not confront it—a clear reference to the Israeli enemy's terrorist practices against the residents of the occupied territories and its constant threats to some Arab countries. [passage omitted]

Argentina Said To Reverse PLO Office Decision

JN2907202090 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 29 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Argentina has reneged on its previous decision to allow the PLO to open an information office in the Arab League mission in Buenos Aires. Argentine President Carlos Menem had earlier informed Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat of his official approval to open such an office during their meeting in Geneva last year.

The Argentine Government has asked Farid Suwwan, the former PLO representative in Brazil who arrived in the Argentine capital recently to head the office, to leave the country. Informed diplomatic sources have revealed that the Argentine reversal of decision to open a PLO office in Argentina was one of the conditions requested from the Argentine president by a delegation of wealthy Jewish businessmen. This took place during a recent meeting with him in New York in the presence of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. This would be done in exchange for their interceding with the World Bank to approve loans and aid to Argentina amounting to $3 billion to enable it to face its economic crisis. Argentina would also receive and accommodate 1 million Soviet Jewish emigrants temporarily until the Israeli Government has finalized its measures to accommodate them in the occupied territories. Argentina will be given $6,000 for each emigrant.

Abu-Sharif Says Israelis Escalate Terror

LD2607174990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, president Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, has accused the Israeli Government of issuing instructions to the occupation soliders and to the armed militias to escalate the campaign of terror against Palestine civilians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a press interview in Tunis today, he added that the occupation authorities have ordered their forces to use gas, batons, and rifle butts to cause pregnant women to abort. He affirmed that 23 pregnant women were the victims of intentional attacks during the last 24 hours which caused them to abort. The Palestinian official called on the United States and the EEC to adopt an effective stance toward these horrible crimes.

Al-Quds Radio Reports Tel Aviv Beach Explosion

JN2807190290 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The Zionist army radio admitted that a bomb exploded on a Tel Aviv beach near the old opera house today, Saturday, wounding 10, according to the radio. The wounded were rushed to hospitals while the Zionist police launched a large-scale search-and-arrest campaign among the Arab citizens for the perpetrators of the operation, whose details are not known as yet. World radios carried the news and Radio Monte Carlo mentioned that an explosive charge concealed in a pipe next to a cabin used by the lifeguards on the beach was the cause of the exposion, which wounded 18 settlers, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Fatah Blames 'Zionist Intelligence' for Incident

JN2907073190 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 0440 GMT 29 Jul 90

["Text" of statement issued by the Fatah Movement "in the occupied territories"; date not given]

[Text] Honorable kinsfolk of the town of Surif. Ye, our heroes, who have made miracles and rendered the Zionist enemy helpless: The cities, villages, and camps of our heroic people in Palestine have been recently subjected to filthy, studied, and well prepared intelligence onslaughts from the fascist Likudist government. These schemes aim to strike at national ranks and liquidate the glorious intifadah.

Our heroic people in the steadfast Surif; the kinsfolk and brothers of Muhammad Radwan and Abu-Ala [Ahmad Kurays Jamal Mazuq]: The Zionist intelligence and security services have been unable to liquidate or undermine the intifadah by their repressive, fascist measures. They have tried all the weapons they possess: firearms, gas and rubber [as heard] bombs, bone-breakings, and mass detention centers in the Negev and Megiddo. Despite all these, the intelligence people have failed to liquidate the intifadah.

O heroic people of the intifadah in the Surif of the free and the revolutionaries: Let us close our ranks and pool our energies to face this fascist stratagem. In this context, we would like to assert that what took place Friday evening, 20 July, is a criminal act by the intelligence and that national forces in the town have no knowledge of what happened. Also, the Fatah Movement has neither distant nor close connections with this criminal act. We at the Fatah Movement, moreover, denounce and condemn this irresponsible incident which is designed to force a reenactment in our village of events in nearby villages. God willing, however, we will deprive all agents and infiltrators from seizing the opportunity to do so and will strike with an iron fist at all those responsible for this situation. We will also inflict severe and public punishment on them.

Let us bolster national unity; let us oppose the occupation's criminal attempts. Long live the Unified National Leadership [of the Intifadah]. It is a revolution until victory.

Signed by the Fatah Movement in the occupied territories.

Communique Reports Israeli Shelling in Lebanon

JN2707172790 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jul 90

["Text" of military communique issued by the PLO military spokesman on 25 July]

[Text] On 25 July, the Israeli forces contin ed their repeated attacks on our forces' positions in the areas of disengagement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area. At 1500, the enemy began its artillery shelling, which lasted until 1540, when it ceased. However, the enemy resumed shelling once again at 1700 and kept it up until 1715, when the shelling ceased. The artillery shelling damaged several civilian houses, wounded a number of civilians, and slightly wounded seven of our fighters. A revolution until victory.

OPEC Affairs

Oil Ministers Comment on Agreement

Iran

LD2707220390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The 87th OPEC oil ministers' session finally reached agreement on a minimum increase of 17 percent in the price of oil, announcing the crude oil benchmark to be set at least $21 per barrel. [passage omitted] Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in an interview with the Voice and Vision announced that these agreements are indicative of the total unity of OPEC, which is unprecedented in the recent history of that organization. [passage omitted]

Iraq

LD3107074690 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1950 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] The OPEC ministerial conference has concluded its meetings in Geneva. It decided to increase oil prices by $3 to bring the price up to $21 per barrel. The 87th meeting of OPEC also decided to fix a new production ceiling and set the quotas for member states.

The Iraqi oil minister made the following statement to the Great Jamahiriyyah radio reporter soon after arriving in the Great Jamahiriyyah:

[Begin Iraqi oil minister recording] After the recent meeting of the OPEC ministerial council, which resulted in the signing of a new comprehensive agreement yesterday, we can now regard ourselves as facing a new and historical turning point representing a big leap in the history of the organization; it was possible to reach an agreement which defined a new formula for regulating production and prices of the 13 states; it emodies commitment at the highest political level on the part of the member states, a complete commitment to the provisions of the agreement; and it was possible to arrive at a mechanism which defines the mode of progress by equally regulating production and prices, whereas in the past, regulating production used to be done at the expense of prices.

The minimum level of prices, established at $18 since the end of 1986, was adjusted to $21. As I said, this represents the minimum level, and we expect it to be overtaken in the actual oil market in the coming months and through the mechanism which was fixed by (?linking) prices and production. There will be a possibility to reexamine this afresh whenever we find that the market can absorb this. The same production ceiling was kept, as it meant no increase in the quotas; all the quotas of all the member states were fixed.

also, no request for increasing quotas at the expense of prices can be allowed. It was particularly emphasized that the revenues which each state should receive will become the basis, not the number of barrels at the expense of prices. A new formula was reached for observing the complete commitment of member states.

All this means that we have succeeded in arriving at a comprehensive agreement embracing the 13 member states for the first time and also regarding the provisions of this agreement. [sentence as heard]

Our expectations are that the market will continue to improve quickly and prices will continue to rise, and this is how it should be so that the producing states can benefit from this resource for the sake of the interests of their peoples. [end recording]

UAE

JN2707201390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1920 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 27 Jul (WAKH)—Dr. Mani' Bin-Sa'id al-'Utaybah, United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of petroleum and natural resources, has said that the results of the OPEC meeting are honorable in the full sense of the word, especially because it is the first time that unanimous agreement is reached on a decision to set the production ceiling at 22.491 million barrels per day [BPD].

In a statement to WAM and Abu Dhabi television, Dr. al-'Utaybah said that the agreement to raise the minimum OPEC price from $18 to $20 is in itself an important achievement if we consider the two parts of the agreement: production quotas and price.

Dr. al-'Utaybah, moreover, asserted that the UAE's acceptance of a 1.5 million BPD quota—even though it does not match the UAE's ambitions in view of its oil reserves and unexploited energy sources—comes under circumstances in which every member state had to make contributions and sacrifices if we were to reach this historic agreement on prices and raise them to an average $21 per barrel.

He also said that the near future will bring about more positive developments and will allow the UAE to obtain a larger quota; it will also allow the fraternal Arab states, which possess unexploited energy and reserves, to increase their quotas. Furthermore, he expressed hope that all member states would honor the commitments they made and the agreements their ministers endorsed.

Algeria

PRC's Qian Qichen Speaks at News Conference

LD3007202590 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] They are relations that have resisted the test of time. With this sentence the Chinese foreign minister expressed the quality of Algerian-Chinese relations at a news conference at the Foreign Ministry at the end of his visit to our country. Hamed Bousalem reports:

[Bousalem] A news conference brought the Chinese foreign minister together with the national and international media, during which he replied to various questions from journalists.

In reply to a question on the main issues discussed with Algerian officials, Qian Qichen said the main issues dealt with regional problems, the internal situation in the two countries, ways to bolstering fraternal bilateral relations, and the need to unite the ranks of developing and Third World countries.

On the results of his three-day visit to Algeria, the Chinese minister said the task of bilateral economic agreements has been assigned to the countries' ministries of trade and foreign affairs.

Regarding the Muslim community in China and the freedom of practicing religion, the Chinese minister there are 16 million Chinese Muslims who pray at 20,000 mosques. He said they are free to practice their religious beliefs as dictated by their Shari'ah.

Iraqi Oil Minister Leaves Algiers for Libya

JN2807194390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1824 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Algiers, 28 Jul (INA)—'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and oil minister, left Algiers for Libya this afternoon.

During his Algiers visit, the Iraqi envoy conveyed a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on bilateral ties and regional developments.

Madani Discusses People's Assembly Elections

On 'Contacts' With Bendjedid

LD3007204890 Paris Antenne 2 Television in French 1800 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Interview with Abassi Madani, president of the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, by Philippe Lefait, via satellite linkup with Madani in Algiers; Madani speaking in Arabic with superimposed French translation—live]

[Text] [Lefait] Our guest on this news program, Mr. Abassi Madani, is, to say the least, one of the main actors on the Algerian political scene. Mr. Madani, thank you for being with us on this news program on Antenne 2. Mr. Madani, are you satisfied with President Chadli's decision?" [To hold People's Assembly elections in 1991]

[Madani] The latest decision—to hold new elections to the National People's Assembly—is a wise decision, but one which has been slow in coming. This decision is wise because to continue to work with an assembly which has lost all its constitutional legitimacy and which has become incapable of facing up to the current situation, whether concerning the area of politics, the economy, social problems, or food. [sentence as as heard] Given this new situation and these problems, it is wise to have decided to move the elections up.

[Lefait] Mr. Madani, did you negotiate these new elections with Mr. Chadli [Bendjedid]?"

[Madani] The word negotiation is not really adequate. It does not really describe our relationship, as the relationship between us was not a relationship either of hostility, animosity, or quarrelling. For this we can say that we established contacts rather than that we held negotiations.

[Lefait] Mr. Madani, at the last municipal elections you won 60 percent of the votes—it was a victory. Because only half the electorate voted, do you not fear that your success will be less pronounced in the legislative elections?"

[Madani] If these elections are really free, no one will have the right—whatever the results of these elections may be—to deny the will of the Algerian people.

[Lefait] Are you ready—if you do not get a majority or if you are a force in the next assembly, but that force does not constitute a majority—to govern with the FLN [National Liberation Front], with Mr. Ben Bella [former president] or with Mr. Ait Ahmed [Socialist Forces Front leader], who are among the democratic forces who are fighting against the Islamic upsurge?"

[Madani] We consider that the recognition of others is proof of the recognition of their existence. Whoever denies others denies their existence. We are ready to work with the others in the interest of our country. We are ready to work with anyone who is inspired by good faith and with any honest party which seeks the country's and the people's interest.

Madani Not Seeking Premiership

LD3007205590 Paris Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] [Announcer] The announcement made by President Chadli Bendjedid about early legislative elections caused no surprise in Algiers. The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], winner of the June local elections, had used the dissolution of the parliament as its favourite theme, hence its positive response to the decision taken by the Algerian head of state.

Donaig Le Du, you have recorded for us the reaction of the FIS leader, Abassi Madani.

[Le Du] President Chadli [finally] understood that the present parliament was no longer capable of accomplishing its mission, Abassi Madani told us. The parliament has lost its legitimacy and its constitutionality because it was elected at the time of the single party prior to the promulgation of the new Constitution. For us, Abassi Madani went on to say, it was unthinkable to change the regime without changing the [People's National] Assembly. Therefore, Abassi Madani hails President Chadli's decision. He has demonstrated an exemplary level of seriousness and political maturity, he added. However, the leader of the Islamists regrets that such a decision was not made earlier. The conditions are met and the political parties are ready, he said, and time is precious in the life of nations.

To the question of whether we can expect to see Abassi Madani one day become the first head of an Islamist government in Algeria, the FIS leader is definite. I will never be prime minister, he said. There are more competent men than me for that, he added.

The way I see it, Abassi Madani stated, it is more important to be head of a party than head of government. I am more efficient as head of the party than I could ever be as head of the government, he went on to say.

Finally, asked about the type of society the FIS would establish should it win the legislative elections, Abassi Madani remained extremely evasive. Our aim, he said, is to put an end to the crisis prevailing in Algeria in all its dimensions, be they economic, political, or social.

[Announcer] It is worth mentioning Donaig Le Du that the FIS leader, who speaks very good French, has refused to answer in Moliere's language, preferring rather to express himself in Arabic.

Democrats Alliance Leader Suffers Knife Attack

LD2607223690 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The president of the National Alliance of Independent Democrats, Mustapha Toumi, was the victim of a knife attack carried out by an FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] councillor of the Staoueli local assembly. This was announced in a communique from the Alliance which was distributed to the press this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Chief of Staff Discusses U.S. Military Supplies

NC3007071890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2144 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, has stated that the United States has responded to all Egypt's military requests and honored its pledge to deliver the new batch of F-16 planes and Apache gunships.

In its Monday edition, AL-AHRAM cites Lt. Gen. Abu-Shinaf as saying that the Egyptian requests were made in a letter President Husni Mubarak sent to U.S. President George Bush.

In a statement before leaving Washington for Cairo, Abu-Shinaf added that the United States understands the significance of Egypt's role in the Middle East as well as the importance of supplying the Egyptian forces with modern equipment.

Abu-Shinaf pointed out that U.S. officials regard Egypt's political and strategic line as a moderate and reasonable one that serves peace and stability and believe that President Husni Mubarak is capable of acting at the right time to contain the problems that cause tension in the region.

The Egyptian chief of staff said that the United States has pledged to give Egypt priority in supplying it with the sophisticated military equipment that is to be withdrawn from U.S. bases in Europe. Egypt had earlier obtained 700 tanks as a grant from the United States after the latter had decided to cut back on the equipment and weapons at its European bases.

Lt. Gen. Abu-Shinaf noted that an agreement has also been reached on improving and developing Egypt's production of the M-1 A-1 tank, which is one of the world's most modern and powerful tanks. He said that there was complete agreement on raising the quality of the Egyptian product to international standards and that the preparation and completion of the factories for assembling and producing the tank will be accomplished as soon as possible so that Egypt will be able to manufacture and assemble tank parts in the near future.

Lt. Gen. Abu-Shinaf said that the subject of military debt was given great attention and that all that he can say now is that Congress fully understands this problem and is discussing steps to remedy it. Lt. Gen. Abu-Shinaf said that U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney will visit Cairo early in the fall. He noted that the U.S.-Egyptian joint military committee has discussed the armament issue, particularly military industrialization and joint training.

Lt. Gen. Abu-Shinaf said that Egypt will set up the most up-to-date integrated training center for the Armed Forces that will incorporate the various corps of the ground forces on the basis of a centralized command and control mechanism at the level of the general command and the various branches.

He pointed out that this center will adopt the most modern systems of control, administration, and analysis that are currently used in the U.S. Armed Forces. He said that the center will be a nucleus for training Egyptian Armed Forces personnel and could become a center for training personnel from other Arab forces if they so desire.

Lt. Gen. Abu-Shinaf said that Egypt will organize its largest military exhibition in Cairo in October to display all aspects of Egyptian military products. He said that the chiefs of staff of all Arab states and of the United States will attend the exhibition.

Concluding his statement to AL-AHRAM, the Egyptian chief of staff said that personnel from all Arab states are receiving training in Egyptian military colleges and institutions and that Egypt is providing these states with the necessary cadres and personnel.

Libya Reportedly Accepts Egyptian Mediation Role

NC3007091290 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 23 Jul 90 p 11

[Text] AL-SHIRA' has learned from political sources in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry that the message sent by Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdafi to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, which was delivered by Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, and Libyan intelligence official Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm during their surprise visit to Cairo, included the Libyan Jamahiriyah's acceptance of Egyptian mediation between Libya and the United States to clear the air between the two countries. The message also touches on the possibility of holding a meeting in Cairo between Libyan and U.S. officials in late July, provided that the United States agrees to certain Libyan terms. Among these are curbing the intensity of the U.S. and White House hostility toward Libya as well as moving the units of the U.S. 6th Fleet which are stationed off the Libyan coast.

Moreover, President Mubarak has responded to Col. al-Qadhdhafi's request to dispatch Egyptian combat units, military experts, and about 50 Egyptian pilots to organize Libyan Army units. The request was made in view of Libya's growing fears of Israeli military aggression in the next few months.

Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm stayed in Cairo to follow up on the issue with the Egyptian authorities at Col. al-Qadhdhafi's instructions.

Mubarak, King Fahd Discuss Arab Interests, Gulf

Mubarak Telephones Fahd

NC2807045590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, last night. The phone call was within the framework of the continuing consultation and coordination between the two leaders to promote the cause of Arab solidarity and advance Arab interests.

Fahd Telephones Mubarak

NC2807101190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0937 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received a telephone call from Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. During the phone call, the two leaders discussed the recent developments in the Arab world, particularly the situation in the Gulf region.

Reportage on Kuwaiti-Iraqi Mediation Efforts

Official on Egyptian Efforts

LD3007121990 Kuwait KUNA in English 1104 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, July 30 (KUNA)—A diplomatic source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has reiterated Egypt is confident that Kuwait and Iraq would adhere to Arab solidarity and Arab principles "as that was the only guarantee for the success of their scheduled meeting in Jeddah on Tuesday."

The official expressed his country's hope that the meeting between His Highness the Kuwaiti Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salem Al Sabah and the Iraqi Vice President Izzat Ibrahim would contribute to reaching a satisfactory settlement of differences existing between the two brotherly countries.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), on Sunday the official denied Egypt was aware of the meeting agenda and affirmed that his country is still playing a mediating role betwen Iraq and Kuwait in order to resolve the dispute. The mediation efforts that began by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak resulted in cessation of media compaigns between the two countries and the agreement to hold the meeting in Jeddah, pointed out the official.

On Egypt's role in solving the dispute between the United Arab Emirates [UAF] and Iraq, the Egyptian official said that the U.A.E. President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al Nuhayan will be holding talks with President Mubarak on this issue during his official visit to Cairo that will begin on Tuesday.

Palestinian Envoy on Mubarak's Efforts

NC2507135590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Today Palestinian ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal welcomed President Mubarak's efforts to resolve the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute. He said he hopes the disagreement will be temporary.

The Palestinian ambassador referred to the effect of inter-Arab disputes on the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their legitimate national rights.

Following a meeting with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, Kamal said that solving the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute will give impetus to the Palestinian intifadah under the auspices of an Arab nation in solidarity. He noted that President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Egypt on a date suitable to President Husni Mubarak.

IMF 'Satisfaction' With Reform Measures Noted

JN2307152090 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 19 Jul 90 p 1

[By Fatin 'Abd-al-Razzaq]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR has learned that IMF Director Michel Camdessus has sent the Egyptian Government the IMF's reply on the results of the economic reform which Egypt is implementing. The IMF has expressed satisfaction with the measures adopted recently by Egypt.

AL-AKHBAR has learned that in early August the IMF director will send his deputy Paul Chabrier [name as published] at the head of a delegation to Cairo to hold further talks with the Egyptian officials and the ministers of the economic group to discuss Egypt's final position on the interest rate, the exchange rate, the plan to improve the public sector, the adjustment of the state general budget, and the removal of restrictions on foreign trade.

A responsible economic source said that the World Bank and the government are undertaking a general review of the plan to adjust the structure of the national economy. A proposal has been made for the bank to offer around $300 million for this reform following an agreement with the IMF. The bank will also monitor the use of the funds it provided to Egypt, which are being used to finance a large number of projects in various fields.

Kuwaiti Fund To Finance Infrastructure Projects

NC2507144390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Egypt and the Kuwaiti Development Fund [KDF] initialled an agreement today by which Egypt will receive $200 million to finance infrastructural projects that would reclaim approximately 400,000 feddans for agricultural purposes in northern Sinai.

Samir Hasan, under secretary at the Egyptian International Cooperation Ministry, signed the agreement on Egypt's behalf. Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim Sadiq, the KDF's senior economic expert who is visiting Cairo, signed for the fund.

Samir Hasan said the first stage of the reclamation project will cost 2.5 billion Egyptian pounds. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and other sources will help finance the project. [passage omitted]

Irrigation Project With Sudan Nearing Completion

JN2307152590 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Engineer 'Abd-al-Karim 'Afifi, undersecretary of the agriculture and irrigation ministry and head of the standing technical committee of the Nile waters, has said that the Qanat Junqali project between Egypt and Sudan will contribute to the irrigation of about 300,000 feddans by providing 18 billion cubic meters of waters to be distributed equally between the two countries.

He added that as of now, 75 percent of the project has been completed. Implementation of the last stage will be discussed at the committee's fourth meeting in Cairo this week, he added. The under secretary's comments were made following his return from Sudan.

Commentaries Consider Israeli Minister's Statement

Implication 'Dangerous'

NC2807195890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary from the "Talking Newspaper" program]

[Text] Israel has never before declared that it possesses nonconventional weapons. It has always evaded comment on all reports about its possession of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

However, the Israeli science minister has broken the rule by announcing that his country possesses chemical weapons and that it will use these weapons against Iraq should Israel be subjected to any Iraqi attack.

This means that Israel had these chemical weapons even before Iraq's declaration that it possesses such weapons. This also means that the Israeli uproar following the Iraqi statements were aimed at defaming Iraq in the eyes of world public and at depicting the Baghdad government as a terrorist government. The aim of the Israeli campaign against Iraq was to take the Iraqi statements out of context and portray the issue as if it were merely a matter of a terrorist threat to Israel. Israel has attempted to give this artificial campaign against Iraq a political hue to claim to the world that the Arabs do not want peace and that international pressure on the Shamir government to hold a dialogue with the Palestinians was prompted by inaccurate calculations and misleading Arab information.

What is astonishing is that this Israeli declaration was made at the very moment when the U.S. Senate, by a majority of 80 to 16, passed a resolution calling for the imposition of economic sanctions on Iraq, including the abolition of the U.S. Government's guarantees for Iraqi loans amounting to $1.1 billion for the purchase of subsidized American products. The U.S. resolution against Iraq was adopted because of what the senators described as the danger of Iraq's possession of chemical

weapons. It seems as if Israel wants to push the Arabs into a battle with the United States at this particular time, especially after the U.S. Administration had suspended the American-Palestinian dialogue.

When Israel declares through its science minister that it has chemical weapons at the very moment when the United States is punishing Iraq economically for its possession of chemical weapons, this means that Washington only cares for Israel's strength.

Naturally, no one in the world can imagine for a single moment that the United States, with all its potential and means, does not know that Israel possesses chemical weapons in addition to nuclear weapons, and that the United States was surprised by the Israeli science minister, just like any other country that has no interest in the Middle East or in developments there.

The implications of the Israeli science minister's statement are extremely dangerous. What is even more dangerous is the fact that the U.S. Congress should punish an Arab state merely because it wants to defend itself against potential threats.

World Silence Criticized

NC2907191890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary from the "Talking Newspaper" program]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. When the Israeli science minister announced that his country possesses chemical weapons, we expected the world to rise in an uproar. We also expected statements of condemnation and even hints of certain measures of deterrence to shower down on the Israeli Government. But we have not heard a single word of rebuke for a government that is openly declaring that it possesses chemical weapons.

Naturally, when we hope for international wrath against Israel, this does not mean that we are inciting the world against Shamir's government. We do so because we have become used to international anger whenever a news agency leaks reports that a Third World country possesses such weapons. The story of Libya and the al-Rabitah factory is the best evidence that anger is sometimes accompanied by violent, albeit unofficial, reactions, undertaken by secret agents. When Iraq announced that it has chemical weapons and that it will use them against anyone who commits an act of aggression against it, the world rose in anger and has yet to calm down. The ugliest accusations were leveled against Iraq, President Saddam Husayn, and the Arab world.

But not one of those who were crying over humanity only few weeks ago because of the possession of chemical weapons by Libya or Iraq has opened his mouth to utter a single small word of rebuke to the Israeli science minister.

We have never expected to see a balanced, objective, and unbiased view of the arms balance in the Middle East. The prevailing rule for the Middle East bans weapons here and allows them there. But the situation has now become too dangerous to be left to whims and bias. The peoples of the area cannot bear to live with the sword of weapons of mass destruction hanging over them when, for example, at the same time the United States has begun to destroy quantities of its chemical weapons after reaching an agreement on this with the Soviet Union.

Hence, it has become a matter of great urgency to resubmit the Egyptian proposal that the Middle East region be turned into a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. We believe that the conference of the Islamic foreign ministers is qualified to resubmit this Egyptian initiative and to back it politically in all international forums. The only alternative to this is the proliferation of chemical weapons in all the countries of the region in self- defense. We do not believe that the international community, which does not stop talking about human rights and world security, will remain a spectator while Israel makes statements about possessing chemical weapons that threaten one of the most tense and sensitive regions in the world.

Article Criticizes 'Arafat Statements on Egypt

JN2507173590 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 23 Jul 90 p 4

[Article by Hisham Tantawi: "A Question! Yasir 'Arafat Does Not Lie!"]

[Text] Yes, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat does not lie; Egypt begs for wheat from the United States. And before we begged for wheat, we had begged for arms for the sake of occupied Palestine, and we had begged for blood to save those wounded in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973. All this was for the sake of the heroic Palestinian people. And this is a medal—carried with pride and dignity—by every Egyptian. There is no a shame in Egypt being an indebted country or begging for wheat as long as this is for the causes of our Arab brothers. But we in Egypt did not and will not beg for men to liberate any part of our land in Sinai or elsewhere.

PLO Chairman 'Arafat spoke the truth when he—illusively—said that Rif'at al-Nahhas Pasha had advised the Palestinians to give the Wailing Wall to the Jews in 1939 when he was the head of the Egyptian delegation to the London conference. The fact is that al-Nahhas Pasha was at that time a member of the opposition and was not the head of the Egyptian delegation to that conference. Let us assume—falsely—that this happened and that al-Nahhas Pasha advised them to give the Wailing Wall to the Jews; did he also advise them to hand over the West Bank, Gaza, al-Rumannah, and all of Palestine to the Jews also? Of course, no and one thousand no's!

Brother 'Arafat, you have the right to play with whom you like; you have the right to play with the egg and

stone; you have the right to play with two faces. However, you have no right to tamper with the Palestine question, because your excellency is not a resident in occupied Palestine, nor are you a prisoner in one of those damned Israeli jails. There are thousands of Palestinians waiting for a solution to their cause. Those Palestinians live in Palestine; they are the stone-throwing children, those living in the camps, and the refugees from this heroic people. The millionaires and those living in the most luxurious hotels cannot speak on behalf of those miserable heroes. And he who wants to speak in the name of the heroes should live their life and feel the pain and fear they suffer.

'Arafat Pasha, I want to ask your excellency one question: What has Egypt done to make you open your mouth against Egypt in this ugly way? Is it true what you claim—that Egypt is putting pressure on you to accept what you reject with regard to the dialogue with the Americans? And suppose this is correct, O brother, you have the right to reject and to declare war on the United States and on whom you like. Nobody can deny you this right. You are the hero. With blood and souls we redeem you O 'Arafat. Long live the struggle of the Arab people; we all love you [Jamal 'Abd-al] Nasir; O colonialism get out; and 'Arafat's army continues the march.

Editorial Derides 'Hollow' Arab League Resolution

JN2207202090 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 21 Jul 90 p 5

[Editorial: "Farcical Resolutions"]

[Text] The Arab League and the PLO are apparently reverting to their old, strident, hollow, and farcical resolutions.

When it last met in Tunis, the Arab League Council clamped a blanket boycott on agencies that eased the traffic of Jews to Israel in any way. The ambiguous decision means a boycott of the Finnish and Hungarian national carriers that transport Soviet Jews transiting their territory en route to Israel. Other national carriers are also involved.

Previously, Jews boarded flights of the Soviet airline Aeroflot bound for staging points in Europe.

The resolution, billed as historic by the PLO, fails to mention the nation that allowed emigration in the first place—the Soviet Union. Nor did it mention the countries that encouraged or forced the Soviets to do that—the United States, which has barred Soviet Jews—save 70,000—thus leaving them no choice but to head for Tel Aviv. The Arab League resolution confined itself to agencies and airline companies. The Arab League secretary general should have pointed out to the Arab League Council that the resolution, couched as it is in strident terms, is meaningless. Indeed, if anything, it is an echo of other historic League resolutions recommending a boycott of airlines and commercial firms doing business with israel but failing over the past forty years to yield any results.

We would have thought the Arab League and the PLO would try to measure up to the level of the children of the stones. But it seems that the men who fight with resolutions issued in Tunis cannot hold a candle to the men who are fighting for the West Bank.

So much for the historic decision made in Tunis at a meeting which Egypt chose to stay away from.

Commentary on Call for 'Calm Diplomacy'

NC2407141690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "Arab Solidarity Is Our Weapon in Confronting Challenges"]

[Excerpts] The challenges facing our Arab nation are many and varied, and great efforts are needed to confront them. They also require caution and vigilance against all the plots being hatched against the Arabs by their enemies who are lying in wait for them and trying with all their might to penetrate Arab ranks. Arabs must achieve complete solidarity and unite their stands to prevent the enemies from achieving their aims. The Arabs must also set out their objectives and marshal all their efforts toward fulfilling these aims. [passage omitted]

The active diplomatic moves now being undertaken in the Arab arena underline the Arabs' desire to achieve their solidarity in a practical way. An Egyptian-Jordanian summit was held in Alexandria yesterday after which King Husayn said that what was agreed on is in the Arab nation's interest and will give an impetus to the peace process. Alexandria also received the Iraqi foreign minister yesterday, who attended part of the Egyptian-Jordanian summit talks.

The Arab arena is today witnessing intensive Egyptian diplomatic action. President Husni Mubarak is visiting Baghdad, Kuwait, and Riyadh. The primary aim of this tour is to underline Arab solidarity and unity of ranks, particularly in these fateful circumstances in the life of our Arab nation, which is facing many challenges. The peace process is going through a stagnant and lukewarm stage as a result of Israel's intransigence, its attempts to place obstacles before the peace efforts in the Middle East, and its adoption of inflexible stands which, according to the FINANCIAL TIMES of London, have caused tension in U.S.-Israeli relations. [passage omitted]

Arab issues are always subject to dangers and negative developments when there are differences of opinion and divisions. This prompts us, as President Husni Mubarak stressed in his speech on the anniversary of the eternal 23 July revolution, to call for a course of objective and calm diplomacy to be pursued when discussing our issues, particularly as we are seeing other countries burying

sharp differences and chronic disputes which they were unable to resolve for more than half a century.

This renewed call by President Mubarak and his efforts in his contacts with his brother Arab leaders serve only one aim; namely, to underline Arab solidarity and unity of ranks in the interest of the Arab nation and its peoples.

Ministry Source Says Wheat Reserves 'Excellent'

JN2307155090 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Jul 90 p 1

[By 'Ali al-Maghribi]

[Excerpt] A responsible source at the Supply Ministry has asserted that the wheat reserves inside the country are excellent and are commensurate with the common strategic reserves held by most countries. He also said that these reserves cover our needs for a period of three to four months, especially after the establishment of a huge silo network at the ports of Alexandria, Bi'r Safajah, Suez, and Port Said.

The source added that Egypt obtains its wheat requirements from several countries, including the United States, from which we import 2.2 million tonnes of wheat and flour according to long-term agreements; 2 million tonnes from Australia, according to a 5-year agreement; and then France and Italy, from which we import most of our high-quality flour. He also said that Egypt is about to achieve self-sufficiency in high-quality flour—we now produce 65 percent of this wheat after developing and expanding mills. [passage omitted]

'Extremists' Kill Policeman in Al-Minya

JN2307144490 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 19 Jul 90 p 1

[By Majdi 'Abd-al-Ghani and Sami Kamil]

[Excerpts] The city of al-Minya witnessed another episode in the serial of extremism when five extremists killed a police warrant officer working for the al-Minya Bureau of Investigation and fled. The five ambushed the officer as he left his home for work in the early morning and assaulted him with knives and chains. The victim is a father of eight, the eldest of which is a 12-year old boy. [passage omitted]

AL-AKHBAR has learned that two of the extremists have been arrested, and the search for the others continues.

Suez Canal Authority Reports Increased Revenue

NC2107175890 Cairo MENA in English 1506 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Ismailia, July 21 (MENA)—The Suez Canal tolls during the past six months were to the tune of 720 million dollars. These tolls are expected to reach 1.5 billions by the end of the year, up by 120 million dollars against last year.

Head of the Suez Canal Authority 'Izzat 'Adil attributed the increase of the Suez Canal tolls to the increase of the tonnage and the number of ships.

Statistics of the Suez Canal Authority showed that some 8,539 ships sailed through the canal during the past six months with a 198 million tonnage, a 1.095 million daily tonnage.

Oil shipments increased against the same period last year by 17 million tons.

The total ships which transitted the canal in June reached 1,312 ships with a 30.3 million tonnage.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Iraqi Oil Minister

LD2907131890 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, the Iraqi oil minister and special envoy of President Saddam Husayn, president of the fraternal Iraqi Republic.

Paper Reports on Israeli Plan To Attack Libya

JN2607154890 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 Jul 90 p 18

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM has learned from a highly-placed Arab source that the visit made to Egypt a few days ago by Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, during which he conveyed an important message from Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to President Mubarak, concerned secret reports received by the Libyan leadership on an Israeli plan to launch a lightning attack on a vital military installation in Libya. The source added that the violation of Tunisian airspace by five unidentified planes during 'Id al-Adha was to allow them to take photos of Libyan military installations. The source went on to say that these planes used a deception strategy involving the use of a route that took them over the Tunisian capital, which is close to Tripoli. [passage omitted]

Libyan-Turkish Joint Committee Begins Session

LD2907172890 Tripoli JANA in English 1630 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Libyan Arab Turkish Joint Committee began its proceedings last night of the 16th session for 1990 in the city of Sirte. Sub committees were set up including the Economic and Trade Sub committee, the Banks and Construction Sub committee, the Sub committee for Social Affairs and Man power, the Sub committee for Industry and Cooperation and the Sub committee for Oil and Liquified Gas.

The opening session was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Formation and Vocational Training and the Turkish minister of state for economic affairs.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Formation and Vocational Training addressed the session welcoming the Turkish minister of state and the delegation in his company.

He asserted the importance of developing cooperation relations and finding all ways which may consolidate his cooperation for the interest of the peoples of the two friendly countries. He pointed out that the meetings will be a new launch of earnest work through which we will endeavour to develop all spheres of cooperation between our two countries.

Also the Turkish minister of state for economic affairs addressed the session saying that "we can achieve a great deal in all fields between our two countries. [no closing quotation mark as received]

The Turkish minister of state for economic affairs made a statement to JANA's correspondent .

He said "We consider Libya a sisterly state to Turkey. I do believe that visits like this which we pay to this sisterly country will provide means to consolidate foundations of cooperation between our two countries. As you know the bases of friendship and strong cooperation between the two countries were established by the brother leader of the revolution and the president of the Republic of Turkey. We will endeavor towards that end to develop the relations of our two countries and I believe we have gone a long way in cooperation between the two countries. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Mauritania

CMSN Secretary Returns From PRC Visit

AB2107200890 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Doctor Lieutenant Colonel Lemine Ould N'Diayane, permanent secretary of the Military Committee for National Salvation, CMSN, has returned to Nouakchott from Beijing following a visit to the People's Republic of China from 10 to 20 July upon the invitation of the Chinese Friendship Association for International Understanding. The visit was marked by the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the CMSN and the Chinese Communist Party on the exchange of visits and publications.

French Fund Grants Two Loans for Projects

AB2207092390 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The minister of planning and employment, Mr. Moustapha Ould Abeiderrahmane, and the director of the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, CCCE, in Nouakchott, this morning signed two loan agreements for a total of 83 million French francs [Fr], or 1.162 million ouguiyas, granted at highly concessional terms, to finance important development projects in Mauritania. Present at the signing ceremony was the French ambassador in Mauritania, Pierre Lafrance.

The minister took the opportunity to thank the French representative for the contribution to the economic and social development represented by this new link in the cooperation between the two countries. The minister then summed up the importance to our country of the two projects for which the financing is intended. He stressed the importance of the first agreement for Fr76 million, which concerns the strengthening of the surveillance network of the fishing sector in Mauritania through the acquisition of a patrol boat for the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, the provision of spare parts for the vessel, the training of national crewmen, and logistic support to the Nouadhibou Fisheries Customs Service. [passage omitted]

The second agreement concerns the granting to Mauritania of a loan of Fr6 million to finance credit facilities within the Union of Development Banks, and to support resettlement projects for Mauritanians repatriated from Senegal in the fields of small-scale fishing and (?beach tending).

Kuwait

Delegation Announced for Talks With Iraq

LD3007173490 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] His Highness the heir Apparent and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah will with God's care leave Kuwait at 1000 [0700 GMT] tomorrow, Tuesday, for Jeddah to attend the meeting which will be held with the delegation of the Iraqi Republic at the invitation of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

His highness will be accompanied by an official delegation composed of:

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad; Minister of Justice and legal Affairs Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman; Minister of Oil Dr. Rashid Salim al-Amiri; Undersecretary at the Office of His Highness the heir Apparent and Chairman of the Council of Ministers 'Abd al-Latif 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Bahr; Foreign Ministry Under secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin; Interior Ministry Undersecretary Major General Yusuf Badr al-Khurafi; Ambassador at the Foreign Ministry Dr. Tariq 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Nubi; assistant undersecretary at the Office of His Highness the Heir Apparent and Chairman of the Council of Ministers 'Abd al-Latif 'Abdallah al-Rawdan; Assistant Oil Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman Nasrat al-Umani. The ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will join the delegation.

His highness will also be accompanied by a number of officials from His Highness's Office and the Foreign, Defense, Interior, Justice, and Oil Ministries, as well as a media delegation from the Information Ministry and the Kuwaiti News Agency.

Leaves for Jeddah 31 Jul

LD3107085790 Kuwait KUNA in English 0759 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 31 (KUNA)—H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah Al Sabah Tuesday left for Jeddah leading the country's delegation to talks with Iraq on the recent crisis between the two countries.

The talks are due to open later today.

Jordan's King, Amir Discuss Arab Solidarity

JN3007155690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] The Jordanian delegation led by His Majesty King Husayn and the Kuwaiti delegation led by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, held a round of talks in Kuwait this afternoon after his majesty the king and his delegation arrived in Kuwait from Baghdad. The talks centered on ways to secure a unified Arab position to preserve Arab solidarity. His Majesty King Husayn's visit came as part of his majesty's efforts and good offices to overcome Arab differences and contain the recent crisis between two fraternal countries, Kuwait and Iraq.

Upon arrival in Kuwait from Baghdad, his majesty was accorded an official reception. At the head of those who received him at the airport was His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah. He was also received by Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, and senior Kuwaiti officials. His majesty is accompanied by Mudar Badran, chairman of the Council of Ministers; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, political adviser to his majesty the king; and Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Tax Exemption Agreement Signed With Hungary

LD2807174590 Kuwait KUNA in English 1538 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Budapest, July 28 (KUNA)—Kuwait and Hungary had initially signed an agreement to avert dual taxation. According to the agreement, concluded here last night, Kuwaiti investors will be exempted from dividends-tax.

An official Kuwaiti source who took part in negotiating the agreement told KUNA that the privilege has never been granted to any country in this field of investment with the exception of 5 percent reduction to West Germany and the United States.

The agreement is a (?supplementary) to an agreement on encouragement and protection of investment signed earlier this year between the two countries. The two agreements will create a conducive atmosphere for launching Kuwaiti investment projects in Hungary partcularly in the oil fields as Budapest government currently is seeking alternative resources for its oil purchases to compensate continuous shortage in Soviet oil purchases.

Al-'Awadi Leaves for Cairo ICO Meeting

LD3007194490 Kuwait KUNA in English 1633 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 30 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadai left Kuwait this evening for Cairo to attend, on behalf of deputy premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the Islamic foreign ministers' conference, opening there on Tuesday.

Dr. al-'Awadi said in pre-departure statements that the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers would discuss a host of issues of interest to the Muslim nation, including political, social and economic questions.

It will also follow up resolutions adopted and means to implement them in an effort to advance prospects of a brighter future for the Muslim world, the official added.

He pointed out that tomorrow's conference will be the first held by ICO foreign ministers outside Saudi Arabia, seat of the 45-member organisation.

Dr. al-'Awadi is accompanied by Cabinet Secretary 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'Utaybi and Kuwait's ambassador to Egypt 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari.

Ghanaian Prime Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

LD3107084190 Kuwait KUNA in English 0719 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 31 (KUNA)—Ghana's Prime Minister Paul Victor Obeng [title as received] Tuesday left here to London concluding an official visit to Kuwait, during which he delivered a message to His Highness the Amir from Ghana's head of state Jerry John Rawlings.

Obeng conferred with a number of Kuwaiti Government officials including the director general of Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development Badr Mashari al-Humaydi. Ghana has received earlier financial assistance worth 56 million dollars from the fund.

The Ghanaian head of government was seen off by Communications Minister Habib Hayat and Ghanaian ambassador to Kuwait.

Oil Minister Terms OPEC Conference 'Success'

JN3007183790 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 30 Jul 90 p 1

[By Suzan Safawi]

[Text] Kuwaiti Oil and Industry Minister Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri notes that the recent OPEC conference was a success, and that the solutions reached were satisfactory to all parties. He emphasized the OPEC member states' depiction of the conference as "historic."

Upon his return to Kuwait yesterday evening, the Kuwaiti oil and industry minister said that the recent OPEC agreement, involving prices and a production ceiling, was accepted by all parties, despite the variance in viewpoints. He attributed this to bilateral and multilateral meetings prior to the Geneva conference last Thursday.

Dr. al-'Amiri asserted that Kuwait's oil policy is characterized by balance and concern for the circumstances of other oil-producing countries. He also noted that the recent agreement owed to the directives of the amir, the heir apparent, the Kuwaiti Cabinet, and the Higher Petroleum Council.

Dr. al-'Amiri denied the hike in the price of fuel and oil byproducts was caused by the raise in the benchmark price of a barrel of crude oil to $21; he imputed this to the taxes levied by the governments of countries suffering the problem.

On the Geneva agreement, Dr. al-'Amiri asserted that it serves the interests of all parties, and that Iraq has made big gains through this agreement, because Iraq was the major party to ask for a price increase.

Oman

Government Signs Contract To Purchase Planes

JN3007170790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] London, 30 Jul (WAKH)—The Omani deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs signed an agreement here today with the British Aerospace Company Limited. The agreement provides for Oman to be supplied with advanced Hawk airplanes.

The contract also covers the equipments necessary for these planes, as well as other necessary services to enhance the capabilities of the Omani Air Force.

The contract was signed for the company by its director general. The British minister of state for defense procurement attended the ceremony.

Decrees Name New Navy Commander, Envoy to Yemen

JN3007153090 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has issued the following three decrees: [passage omitted]

Effective 1 August, Staff Commodore al-Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Taymur Al Sa'id is to be promoted to the rank of rear admiral and appointed commander of the Sultanate of Oman's Navy. [passage omitted]

'Awad bin Mahmud bin 'Ali is to be appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Oman to the Republic of Yemen.

The Embassy of the sultanate to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] is to be closed down. Ambassador Muhammad bin Salim bin Muhammad al-Hajri, Oman's ambassador to the PDRY, is to be transferred to the general bureau of the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Reportage on Kuwait-Iraq Talks in Jeddah

Kuwait, Iraq Approve Framework

JN2707133290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1206 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Responsible Egyptian sources have disclosed that Iraq and Kuwait conveyed to Egypt their approval of the content of the ideas Egypt has set forth to determine the framework for direct negotiations between the two countries in Jeddah. The approval was conveyed yesterday

when Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of President Mubarak's office for political affairs, met with the Iraqi president and with the amir of Kuwait.

The sources noted that Egypt had included the following important points:

1. The direct talks should start with a discussion of the less important issues so they can be settled and set aside, in case new developments in Iraqi-Kuwait relations take place.
2. The disputed strategic issues should be well prepared for and settled at a summit between President Saddam Husayn and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, with the condition that no dispute over these issues will be raised until they are settled.
3. Each country should advise the other of its views prior to the discussion of these strategic issues so as to keep the talks in this regard from failing.
4. Should any disagreement arise during the talks, Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia may intervene directly to settle the dispute during the negotiations stage.

Klibi Views 'Good Start'

LD3007114990 Kuwait KUNA in English 1034 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, July 30 (KUNA)—Arab League chief Chedli Klibi has said the reconciliatory talks in Jeddah Tuesday between Kuwait and Iraq herald a good start for negotiations between the two sides and have been the fruit of a concerted Arab mediation effort.

Klibi, talking to KUNA here last night as he arrived to take part in the meeting of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers which opens Tuesday, added that both Iraq and Kuwait had demonstrated keen interest in solving the crisis under the Arab League umbrella.

The League's chief paid tribute to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for their diplomatic efforts that made the Jeddah talks possible. Klibi, who visited Kuwait and Baghdad at the height of the crisis last week, said the League did its own share of mediation and he expressed belief that both Kuwait and Iraq have confidence in the pan-Arab body.

He also pointed out that Kuwait had acted promptly to defuse the crisis with Iraq and he cited lightning trips to five Arab Gulf countries by Kuwait's deputy premier and foreign minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad who briefed the region's leaders on the dispute with Iraq.

High-Level Talks Previewed

LD3107082990 Kuwait KUNA in English 0741 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Jeddah, July 31 (KUNA)—Kuwait and Iraq are scheduled to open here Tuesday high level talks to try and accommodate their differences over border and oil questions.

H.H. the crown prince and prime minister of Kuwait Sheikh Sa'ad Al-'Abdallah was scheduled to arrive in Jeddah later today heading a top level delegation to attend the talks with an Iraqi delegation in response to good offices spearheaded by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The Iraqi delegation will be led by deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council Izzat Ibrahim.

The two sides are expected to examine the grievances of both countries regarding recent dispute over common borders and oil exploitation rights to reach a formula acceptable to the two brotherly states. Today's talks, the first high level encounter since the eruption of the dispute about two weeks ago, comes after intensive efforts initiated by Saudi Arabia and Egypt and followed by extensive endeavours from other Arab countries to contain the dispute.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia, which played the leading role to get the Kuwaiti-Iraqi dispute settled, has expressed hope that today's talks would convene within fraternal and cordial spirit to ensure the brotherly ties between the two Arab Gulf countries.

Saudi Information Minister Ali al-Sha'ir told the official Saudi Press agency that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz who presided over the weekly session of the Saudi Council of Ministers yesterday briefed the cabinet on the outcome of contacts and consultations he conducted with Arab leaders to handle differences with wisdom, patience and mutual understanding.

He said the Council of Ministers has expressed deep satisfaction for the agreement by Kuwait and Iraq to convene today's meeting and reiterated the Kingdom's keenness to seel the spirit of fraternity prevailing between bretherns for the interests of peoples of the Gulf region and the Arab and Islamic nations.

Kuwaiti Delegation Arrives

LD3107111990 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah—Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, with God's grace arrived in Jeddah about 1200 today to attend the meeting with the delegation of the Iraqi Republic at the invitation of the fraternal kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

His highness was accorded an official welcome. Those who took part in it were headed by brother crown prince and deputy prime minster and commander of the national guard in the fraternal kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Higness prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, their royal highnesses the princes, and senior Saudi officials.

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister made the following statement to SPA [Saudi Press Agency]:

It always gives pleasure to come to my second homeland: the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—this good land which was singled out by God's grace, who made the hearts of people travel to it. In Kuwait we harbor a special affection and esteem toward Saudi Arabia. This springs from the close links and historical ties between the two countries. I

find it imperative for me to express grateful thanks for the sincere efforts of the brother Arab leaders in containing the transient dispute between Kuwait and Iraq. I particularly hold in great esteem the generous gesture of the servant of the two holy places, His Majesty brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and his Excellency brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak—which paved the way to the convening of this meeting.

There is no doubt that the hosting of this meeting by the dear Kingdom comes from its adherence to its Arab and Islamic responsibilities which it has always been eager to shoulder, in affirmation of its historical pioneering role in confronting the issues of the Arab and Islamic nation, and to earnestly work for closing the ranks of and uniting this nation. I look forward with an open heart to meeting brother deputy chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command, Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim. I affirm Kuwait's desire to positively take part in this meeting, hoping that it constitutes a basic step toward reaching a final and just solution to all the outstanding problems and issues between the two fraternal countries. This is in harmony with the effective role which the fraternal Kingdom had played and still plays by its invitation to this meeting, its generous hosting of it and its positive care of it.

I pray to God to guide us all to all that is good and noble for our Arab and Islamic nation. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Delegation Arrives

LD3107122590 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Excerpts] His Excellency 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] in the republic of Iraq, arrived in Jeddah today at 1300 hours. His Royal Highness 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, welcomed His Excellency at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport. [passage omitted] The delegation accompanying His Excellency the deputy chairman of the Iraqi RCC includes His Excellency Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; His Excellency Mr. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the minister of local government; and a number of high-ranking officials.

King Fahd Chairs Council Meeting on Arab Issues

LD3007204390 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud chaired the meeting which the Council of Ministers held this afternoon, Monday, eighth of the month of Muharram 1411, corresponding to 30 July 1990, at the Salam Palace in Jeddah.

After the meeting his excellency the information minister, Ali al-Sha'ir, said in his statement to SPA:

In light of the reports submitted to the custodian of the two holy mosques, the Council reviewed the most important political, economic, and security developments at the level of the Arab region, and guided by the king, the Council discussed a number of issues which are within the framework of interest of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in various fields.

In this connection the king pointed out to the Council the results of the contacts and talks which he had had with some of his brothers—the leaders and amirs of the Arab states—within the framework of consultations and the exchange of views on current issues to attain a common view through which matters can be handled with wisdom, consideration, and fraternal understanding among all Arab brothers in the interest of all. In this regard the Council expressed its deep satisfaction with the statement made by an official source in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding the fixing of the date for convening the awaited meeting between the delegations of the two fraternal countries—the Iraqi Republic and the State of Kuwait—tomorrow, Tuesday, in Jeddah. With regard to the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic states in Cairo tomorrow the king praised the efforts of the Islamic Conference Organization. The Council continued to express interest in the development of the Lebanese question and called on all factions to halt the fighting. The Council then discussed some local issues.

Mauritanian Foreign Minister Arrives in Jeddah

LD2707220690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2140 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Jeddah, 27 Jul (SPA)—His excellency the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Hasni Ould Didi, arrived in Jeddah this evening. He was welcomed on arrival at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, 'Abd al-Rahman al-Nuwaysir, the ambassador of Mauritania to the kingdom, and a representative of the royal household.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Receives Message From Pakistan's Bhutto

JN2807181090 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 28 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, received a written message from Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto dealing with bilateral relations.

The message was delivered by Iqbal Akhund, Bhutto's adviser for foreign and national security affairs during a meeting with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah at his Batin Palace here this evening.

A number of issues of common interest in addition to bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, Sa'id al-Ghayth, minister of state for cabinet affairs and Pakistani Ambassador Chakar Ali Junejo [name as received].

Saddam, King Husayn Converse by Phone 30, 31 Jul

JN3107111190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn received a telephone call from his brother Jordan's King Husayn Ibn-Talal yesterday. The leader president also had a telephone conversation with his brother King Husayn Ibn-Talal today.

During the telephone conversations the two leaders discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and the latest developments in the Arab region.

RCC Chairman, Delegation Leave for Kuwait Talks

JN3107105390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—Revolution Command Council [RCC] Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim left Baghdad today for Jeddah to lead the Iraqi delegation to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti talks scheduled to begin there later today.

He was seen off at the airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member; Sa'di Mahdi Salih, National Assembly speaker; and a number of other ministers.

The Iraqi delegation accompanying the RCC vice chairman comprises Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister, and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, minister of local government.

Paper Outlines Iraqi Stance on Jeddah Meeting

JN3107093790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has stressed that Iraq has spared no efforts to give advice and guidance to the Kuwaiti Government and to bring to its attention the gravity of its actions, which have harmed Iraq and encroached on its rights and sovereignty.

In an article written by the political editor, the paper says: The meeting between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations is scheduled to be held in Jeddah today after Iraq, out of its concern for higher pan-Arab interests, responded to the brother Arab leaders' efforts to have this meeting held to pave the way for discussing the important issues that were included in Iraq's two memorandums to the Arab League secretary general concerning Kuwait's trespass on its territory and the illegal exploitation of its oil from al-Rumaylah and other oil fields, in addition to the overall Kuwaiti policy that has inflicted grave damage on the Iraqi economy.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: For the sake of truth we say, as we have always said, that we spared no efforts in the past to give advice and guidance to the Kuwaiti Government to draw its attention to the gravity of its actions which have inflicted grave damage on Iraq and encroached on its territory and sovereignty. We had hoped that the Kuwaiti Government would have responded to what was included in the messages of leader President Saddam Husayn and his envoys to them out of concern for Arab solidarity and the acknowledgement of rights. Regrettably, however, we have seen nothing but attempts to evade this. This is why we were compelled to reveal all facts as mentioned in leader President Saddam Husayn's speech on the 22d anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution and in the Iraqi foreign minister's two memorandums to the Arab League secretary general. The facts we revealed have played a great role in describing the extent of the damage inflicted on Iraq as a result of the erroneous Kuwaiti policy and its encroachment on Iraq's national interests and higher pan-Arab interests. This was a big surprise to the sons of the entire Arab nation.

Concluding, the paper says: We take the opportunity of the Jeddah meeting between the delegations of Iraq and Kuwait to reiterate that Iraq has not resorted to the policy of blackmail, as some have said, but has used all legitimate means to express its opinion and to define its usurped rights. It considers the contents of leader President Saddam Husayn's speech and the two memorandums to the Arab League secretary general in terms of clear facts as a basis for presenting the issues that will be discussed. From God we seek success.

Military Awaits 'Imperialist' Attack

JN3107053390 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] An authorized source has stated the following: The imperialist states once again are trying to shuffle cards for their controlled media using Iraq's honorable, just national and pan-Arab position on OPEC oil policy as a pretext and cover for a new wave of defamation, intrigue, and distortion of facts and positions with the objective of providing an appropriate cover for their evil ally, Israel, to strike at vital targets in the Iraq of glory and pride in the belief that the Iraqis' eyes are not monitoring their evil objectives and intrigues.

We warn those who need to be warned and reiterate that he who would strike at Iraq must expect strikes that will shake up his entity. The concerned classes of our military—foremost of which are our heroic Air Force and the brave men of air defense—are lying in wait for them. The lowly ones will be defeated after their arrows go off course and afterward they will be dealt a double blow of retaliation, God willing.

Paper Urges Unified Action Against U.S., Israel

JN2807120590 Baghdad INA in English 1045 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 28, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily said that since 1967 the United States had been trying to

deal with Palestinian issue individually to support the Zionist program on the one hand and to protect its interests on the other.

In an article published today, the daily added that to attain this goal, the U.S. had exerted every possible effort in the international fora just to be the sole party responsible on the international level for what the Americans termed the Middle East issue.

The daily pointed out that the U.S. unceasing support for the Zionist entity had encouraged the Zionists to go far in their aggressive acts against Arab countries, even those having no common borders with their entity, citing the Zionist attacks on the Iraqi Tammuz nuclear reactor and the Palestine Liberation Organization' headquarters in Tunis as an example.

The daily further added that the U.S. had pursued a policy aimed at giving the Zionist expansionist tendency an executive nature climaxing by the siege of Beirut in 1982 and at providing the Zionists with nuclear weapons, jeopardizing by that international peace and security.

AL-THAWRAH confirmed that the Palestinian cause is a mere Arab issue having international effects, underlining the necessity of a collective Arab move capable of ending the U.S. role which could only serve the Zionist hostile ambitions.

Saddam Receives PLO's 'Arafat 28 Jul

JN2807203990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the Palestinian arena and the Palestinian intifadah. They also discussed Arab affairs in light of the Baghdad summit resolutions.

The meeting was attended by Revolution Command Council members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of information and culture, and Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, also attended.

Somali President Siad's Envoy Visits Baghdad

Delivers Message

JN2807200090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from his brother His Excellency President Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the Somali Democratic Republic.

'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, received the message today when he met with Mohamed Said Hersi, Somali presidential envoy and minister of public works and housing.

Departs 29 Jul

JN2907134090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—Mohamed Said Hersi, personal envoy of Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre and Somali minister of public works and housing, left Baghdad this morning.

During his visit, the Somali envoy conveyed a written message from the Somali president to his excellency the president.

Transport Minister Returns From Maghreb Tour

JN2807110090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—Muhammad Hamzah, transport and communications minister and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmen, and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, returned to Baghdad this morning. In a statement to INA, the Iraqi minister said that during his tour he conveyed messages from President Saddam Husayn to his brothers on bilateral relations and developments in the Arab region.

Oil Minister Returns From Libya, Algeria

JN2907184090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, envoy of President Saddam Husayn to his brothers Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, returned to Baghdad today.

In a statement to INA, he said he had conveyed two messages to the Libyan and Algerian presidents from President Saddam Husayn dealing with Iraq's relations with both countries and developments in the Arab region. He added that Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid asked him to convey their greetings to President Saddam Husayn.

Paper Views OPEC Meeting, Control Measures

JN2907094290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—The newspaper al-JUMHURIYAH states that the basic factor that rendered the resolutions of the recent OPEC meeting a success is the concern demonstrated for the national oil wealth.

In an article today the paper says: Such a national concern will add up to the minimum required level of concern for pan-Arab wealth at time when our nation is being subjected to the fiercest malice and hostility and when hostile countries are arming themselves with funds obtained at the expense of the low prices of our oil, which we are selling to them.

The paper points out that the recent OPEC oil minister's meeting in Geneva formulated a number of resolutions that could close some negative gaps in the oil arena: raising the price of oil to $21 per barrel and setting a production ceiling and steering these two resolutions toward the withdrawal of oil reserves that had accumulated as a result of previous overproduction in excess of the allotted quotas.

The paper explains that the conference underscored an important fact concerning the mandatory aspect of the resolutions and their applicability to all countries that had unanimously approved these resolutions and endorsed an agreement to confirm their approval.

The paper adds: When there are no means to impose penalties on a country that sells for less than the approved figure, only moral and political commitment can constitute a deterrence capable of warding off the harm being caused to the interests of oil-exporting countries and preventing the realization of goals contemplated by rapacious buyers in industrially developed countries.

INA Reports Details of Draft Constitution

JN3007121090 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 30, INA—Iraq's new draft Constitution has been announced here for public debate.

The draft Constitution stipulates that the president will be elected, for the first time in Iraq's history, by general elections.

The proposed Constitution also guarantees the freedom of thought and speech allowing the setting up of political parties.

According to the draft Constitution, citizens will be free to establish or join in political parties, societies and unions.

The Constitution will also guarantee individual freedoms and the right to hold peaceful gatherings and demonstrations.

The press will be free and there would be no censorship on dailies and other periodicals and publications.

There will be a shura (advisory) council which consists of 50 members, half of whom will be chosen by the president and the other half freely elected.

The National Assembly (Parliament) will have 250 members who will be freely and directly elected by the people.

Following is an extensive review of the draft constitution:

The draft Constitution stipulates that Iraq is a sovereign, independent state with republican system of government.

It also states that Iraq is an integral part of the Arab world striving to achieve Arab unity. Iraq is an indivisible unit, and no part of it can be ceded under any circumstances.

The draft Constitution states that Islam is the state's official religion. The people of Iraq comprise the Arab and the Kurds and the constitution secures the legitimate rights for all Iraqis.

Arabic is the official language. Kurdish is the official language along with the Arab in Kurdistan Autonomous Region. The region where the population are predominantly Kurds enjoys autonomy within the Iraqi legal, political and economic unit.

The state is the sole authority responsible for setting up armed forces, no other party is entitled to set up military, parliamentary or armed organisation.

The draft constitution stresses that Iraq abides by the principle of the international law, respects the principles of good neighbourliness, supports cooperation among nations, adheres to non-interference in the internal affairs of others and commits itself to settling conflicts through peaceful means on the basis of equality, mutual interests and reciprocity.

It stipulates that social concord is the context within which the citizen can operate. The society guarantees the citizen's full rights and freedoms as would not contravene the interest of society as a whole.

The state caters for the families of martyrs and gives them priority, in facilities and employment opportunities.

The draft constitution says the state is solely in charge of running national economy with a view of achieving economic progress, increasing national income, raising the standard of living and accomplishing Arab economic unity. The central government is the sole authority entitled to directly exploit natural resources like oil, gas, and other minerals.

The draft constitution guarantees the right to private ownership and individual economic activity governed by the law, provided that it does not cause any social harm or violates the economic principles laid down by the constitution.

Foreigners are not entitled to real estate ownership unless otherwise stipulated by law while non-Iraqi Arabs' ownership of real estate is governed by the law.

The draft constitution says all citizens are equal in rights and duties before the law and are protected by the law without any discrimination. The defendant is innocent

unless proven otherwise by legal proceedings, and self-defence is guaranteed for defendant. In cases of miscarriage of justice, the citizen can seek compensations.

The citizen cannot be detained or arrested without a special warrant issued by a legal authority in conformity with the law and the detainee has the right to contact his family and lawyers.

Individual dignity and honour are inviolable and the citizen is protected from illegal arbitrary infringement upon his privacy, honour and reputation. The sanctity of homes is secured. Homes cannot be illegally entered or searched.

The draft constitution provides for the freedom of peaceful gatherings and demonstrations which are governed by the requirements of security, public order and the freedom of others.

The draft constitution also stipulates freedom of thought and freedom of expression and the use of media and cultural channels is guaranteed by law. The freedom of press and publication is guaranteed and other publications unless otherwise stipulated for by the law. Citizens are free to set up political parties or join them. This right is regulated by the law as would not contravene the constitution and national unity requirement.

The constitution likewise allows the establishment of societies and guarantees freedom of joining them. It prohibits the establishment of political parties, societies and clubs which are based on mingling religion with politics, or on atheism, sectarianism, racism, regionalism or anti-Arabism. Parties, societies and clubs should commit themselves to public activity and refrain from the use of coercion and force in their activities.

No party other than the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party is allowed to practice political or party activities within the Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces (police and security offices).

The law guarantees the establishment of trade unions. The government guarantees the prerequisites enabling political parties, societies, trade unions, federations and clubs to function in accordance with the law.

The draft constitution stipulates freedom of religious rituals provided that they do not violate public interest and order.

Every individual has the right to elect and to take part in the referendum as governed by the constitution and the law.

The citizen enjoys the right to travel abroad and return home, and there could be no restrictions on his movement and residence unless in cases defined by the law. According to the draft constitution an Iraqi citizen cannot be deported or prevented from returning home.

Political asylum in Iraq is guaranteed and a political refugee cannot be repatriated. Conditions for political asylum and the rights of obligations of the political refugee are covered by the law.

Only the law has powers over the jucidiary, the draft constitution says. There could be no interference in the affairs of the judiciary and the judges enjoy the freedom to take the decision they deem appropriate. The judiciary's main objective is to achieve justice by having the laws implemented.

Special tribunals shall not be set up, except when state security necessitates such an action. Such tribunals are set up by a decision by the president and shall be dismantled once the purpose for which they were set up has ended.

The draft constitution stipulates that the president is the head of the state, the leading model, the leader of the people and the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. He is responsible for protecting the homeland and national independence, the implementation of the constitution and the rule of law.

The president is elected by general direct secret ballot which is regulated by the law. He should be an Iraqi by birth of no foreign origin. He should be known for justice, courage, wisdom, prowess and distinguished service to the homeland and the nation.

The president should also be known for his loyalty to the principles of the July 17-30 Revolution and his active participation in the Gulf war. He should also have deep conviction that this war was inevitable to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity. Furthermore, he should be an advocate of socialism.

President elections procedures according to the draft constitution should start 17 days before the end of the ongoing presidency term. Nominations are to be submitted to the Shura (advisory) Council within a period of ten days as of the start of the election procedures. The Shura Council looks after the election of the president of the republic, announces the results and considers challenges.

The candidate is elected president if he wins a majority of voters. If any of the candidates fail to win this majority, there will be re-elections following a fortnight as of the date of the announcement of the results. The candidate who captures the biggest number of votes in the re-elections will take office as the president. If there is only one candidate for the presidency, he will be considered president-elect if he wins an absolute majority of votes.

The president-elect takes oath within one week after the announcement of the results during a joint session of the Shura Council and the National Assembly.

Presidency term is eight years renewable starting on the day the president takes the constitutional oath.

The president represents the head of the executive authority and can occupy the post of prime minister. The

president practices the executive powers directly or through the council of ministers.

The president can declare a state of general mobilisation and the use of Armed Forces if need be to defend the country. He can also accept the truce and conclude peace treaties.

The president can appoint one or more vice-presidents and can define their duties. The vice-president is directly accountable before the president on their [as received] performance.

The president appoints the prime minister, deputy prime ministers and ministers and relieves them of their duties.

The draft constitution provides that the president can call for referendum on various legislations and issues and the result of the referendum is binding if approved by a majority public vote.

The president is entitled, in time of crisis and serious threats, to issue orders or resolutions that have the force of law to fend off the threats against the country. He is also entitled to announcing the state of emergency nationwide or only in parts of the country.

The president likewise can issue whatever laws he deems appropriate and take any necessary measures in times of armed struggle with a view to boosting the country's combat ability and facilitating general mobilisation.

The draft constitution provides that the president can deal with certain cases which are not governed by the law at his discretion to achieve justice. The president cannot practice any commercial or industrial occupations during his term of office and cannot buy public property from the state funds for commercial purposes.

If the presidency post becomes vacant for any reason his duties will temporarily be assumed by a presidency council comprising the head of Shura Council, speaker of the National Assembly, and the prime minister. The eldest of them will head the presidency council. A new president should be elected within a period not exceeding 70 days as of the date the post had become vacant. If the president wants to resign, he can do so by submitting a written letter to the Shura Council and the National Assembly, or to either one of them if the other does not exist.

The Shura Council is the highest authority which is consulted by the president on key political, economic, legal and other critical issues and on the security, unity and interests of the country. The council enacts laws as governed by the provisions of the constitution.

The Shura Council consists of 50 members, 25 of whom are appointed by the president, while the other 25 are elected through direct public secret ballot. The council has a five-year term.

The president can dissolve the Shura Council if need be and a new Shura Council should be elected within a period of no more than 90 days. The council holds two annual sessions of eight months to be defined by its constitution.

The National Assembly comprises elected people's representatives. It enacts laws and monitors the functions of the various ministries.

The assembly consists of 250 members who are elected by direct general secret ballot. It has a four-year term after which a new assembly should be elected within a period not exceeding 60 days. The assembly holds two annual sessions to be defined by the law.

The president can dissolve the National Assembly through a decree in which he states the reasons for such a move. A new assembly should then be elected in line with the constitution within a period not exceeding 90 days.

The National Assembly looks into draft laws proposed by the president. If the assembly approves a proposed draft law, it is referred to the Shura Council. Once the council also approves the draft law, it will be referred to the president for ratification. The national assembly considers draft laws when a motion to this effect is made by no less that 30 of its members. If the draft law is rejected, it will be final and the same draft law cannot be proposed again during the same annual session.

Upon the approval of the president and the request of 20 members, the National Assembly can summon the prime minister to sound him on any issue related to his duties other than issues related to defence and security. The assembly has the powers to recommend to the president the relieving of the prime minister or any of the ministers if they are found incompetent or negligent.

The Council of Ministers is the executive body responsible for implementing the state's general policy as defined by the president. They are directly accountable before the president for their performance.

The duties of the Council of Ministers include, among other things, preparation of draft laws to be referred to the president for ratification in accordance with the constitution. It also follows up the implementation of laws.

The Council of Ministers prepares the annual general budget and development plans. In a joint session, the Shura Council and the National Assembly approve the general budget and the development plan except for items which the president decides that should not be discussed. The council also monitors the implementation of the general budget and the development plan.

Cabinet meetings and deliberations are secret and the decisions of the Council of Ministers are announced or publicised in the way the Council deems appropriate.

The draft constitution stipulates that the vice-president, members of the Shura Council and National Assembly, the prime minister, his deputies and ministers should

present statements declaring all their property when they assume their posts and when they quit them.

The Shura Council and the National Assembly cannot convene without securing a two-third quorum. Resolutions are approved by a majority vote of members present during the session. The same provision applies to the joint sessions of the Council and the Assembly.

Head of the Shura Council and speaker of the National Assembly are elected by secret ballots. Meetings of the two bodies are public but can, at the request of the president or the discretion of the heads of the two bodies, be secret. Meetings of the two bodies can also be held behind closed doors at the request of ten of their members and the approval of the heads of the two bodies.

Members of the Shura Council and the National Assembly are free to moot any idea or proposal provided that they adhere to the rules of either body and the dictates of courtesy.

Accession to treaties and international agreements are approved by the Shura Council and the National Assembly or either of them if the other does not exist by a two-third majority of either body. Such treaties and agreements include borders and territorial integrity, reconciliation and peace, the establishemnt of international organizations and joining them. Other agreements are subject to the approval of the Council of Ministers and the ratification of the president.

The president and the Shura Council can propose the amendments of one or more articles of the constitution, if such an amendment is proposed by the president. If the president and the Shura Council differ on any proposal to amend the constitution, the president can call a joint session of the Shura Council and the National Assembly to consider the proposed amendment. If two thirds of the attending members approve the amendment, the president will put the proposal to referendum. If the proposal fails to win the two-third majority it will be dropped.

The Revolution Command Council will continue to operate until the president-elect assumes his office. The Revolution Command Council will be considered dissolved on the day the president takes office.

The first presidential elections will be supervised by a committee headed by speaker of the National Assembly. It comprises head of the court of cassation, ten National Assembly members and ten longest-serving judges at the court of cassation.

The draft constitution will run into force after winning the approval of the population through national referendum.

Arens on Conditions for Lebanon Intervention

TA3107050890 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Jul 90 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Text] Over 10 Hizballah terrorists were killed and 15 wounded yesterday by Israeli Army cannon fire aimed at the village of Jarju', north of the security zone in south Lebanon.

Earlier, Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated that Israel would intervene in the fighting between Hizballah and Amal if it feels that the fighting was endangering it. Arens said: The incidents in the north among the various factions in south Lebanon are a tragedy that has been going on for years.

Arens noted: We are not eager to intervene in what is happening there, but if the fighting reaches the point where we see that our interests are being jeopardized or the security of Israel's citizens is being threatened—in other words, when the situation becomes unbearable from our point of view—there will be no other choice and we will intervene.

Touring the security zone, Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said that the situation "contains an element of danger" to us, but pointed out that Israel has not yet decided whether to intervene or not.

Fatah-Led 'Terrorist' Squad Charged in Galilee

TA3007105490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Charges have been brought against six members of an alleged terrorist ring operating in Galilee. The six appeared this morning before a Lod military court.

According to the charges, the head of the group, Khalid Kan'an was recruited by the Fatah in Germany, and had additional contacts with the organization in Yugoslavia. The suspected terrorist cell is alleged to have planted bombs which did not go off in Haifa and the Haifa bay area towns; one charge, planted in Nahariyya, did go off and caused some damage.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 30 July in a report on page A1 by Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Me'ir Hare'uveni, and Amir Gilat adds that "security sources in Israel will report to the United States on the results of their interrogation of the members of the terror squad captured in the Galilee, in order to prove that Fatah, under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat, continues to plan and carry out terror attacks. The investigation revealed that the squad is connected to al-Hawari's Europe-based terror network. This is the third incident, after 'Arafat's declaration that he has abandoned the path of terror, where the direct involvement of the PLO in terror activities has been exposed."]

IDF, Shin Bet Uncover Fatah Group in Nabulus

TA3007165090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Telephone report by Mikha'el Tuchfeld]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Force] spokesman has issued a communique reporting that the IDF and the Shin Bet yesterday uncovered a terrorist cell in Nabulus. It served the body known as the Revolutionary Defense Mechanism [Mangenon Habitahon Hamahapkhani]. Its cache was cleverly concealed under an innocent-looking residential home in town, but served as the depot and hiding place for the cell members. A search of the premises yielded weapons and a substantial amount of equipment, including a (Karabine) rifle, four different revolvers, a Carl Gustaf submachine gun, magazines, various types of ammunition, knives, binoculars, protective vests, telescopic sights, and more.

The Revolutionary Defense Mechanism is identified with Fatah. Since the outbreak of the intifadah, it attacked and violently interrogated—sometimes with extreme brutality—dozens of locals, including women and elderly men, on suspicion of collaborating with Israel. Some of these interrogations ended in the death of the suspects.

Among the findings were also the identity card of Hani 'Adil Salfiti, a 36-year old resident of Nabulus, whose body was found in June 1989 bearing signs of beating; another identity card belonging to 22-year old Nabulus resident Hazim 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Qadi, who was stabbed to death in April 1989; and that of Shabi' 'Ali Ibrahim Hanifa, aged 41, from Nabulus who was attacked by masked individuals in April 1989 and suffered serious injuries from an ax.

The IDF spokesman points out that the Shin Bet and the IDF have been investing much effort in liquidating this group. The exposure of its cache, as well as the operation that ended in the capture of 11 of the group's members in Nabulus in June 1990, constituted part of that effort.

Let us also note that Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command, applauded the IDF and the Shin Bet for their operation.

Shamir's Office Denies Likud Meeting With PLO

TA3107070290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jul 90 p 1

[Report by Dan Izenberg and news agencies]

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office yesterday dismissed PLO claims that a Likud official had met one of its representatives and proposed negotiating with an Arab delegation at an international peace conference.

"Baloney," said Yosi Ben-Aharon, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office. "It's just PLO psychological warfare."

According to a Reuters report from Baghdad, Bassam Abu-Sharif, a close aide of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, told reporters there that a "(new) Likud plan...calls for negotiations with an Arab delegation, which represents the Arab countries, within any international framework that can be arranged."

Abu-Sharif did not name the Likud official or say when or where the meeting had taken place; however, he quoted him as saying the new Likud peace plan "completely torpedoed" Prime Minister Shamir's plan for autonomy talks with a Palestinian delegation.

Levy on Dialogue With Arabs, Relations With U.S.

AU2707120190 Vienna WOCHENPRESSE in German 21 Jul 90 p 21

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy by WOCHENPRESSE; place and date not given: "We Are Not Looking for Excuses"]

[Text] [WOCHENPRESSE] You had to postpone your first visit to Washington due to health reasons (Levy had a heart attack—the editors). Now you are able to make this visit—but when?

[Levy] No date has been fixed. Probably in the first week of August.

[WOCHENPRESSE] How do you see world politics from the point of view of your new, but somewhat unfamiliar office? You were against Shamir's peace initiative when it was launched one year ago. Has your point of view changed in the meantime?

[Levy] Not basically. I do not have to revise my opinion of last year. Since then, it has turned out to be correct. I only say that we have to appear to be credible in our attitude toward the United States—and all other countries. There were several attempts to make changes [in the initiative]; we should have rejected them immediately. An understanding with the United States can only be achieved on the basis of confidence between the two governments. Mutual credibility can be reestablished in an open dialogue. Israel has to point out the risks that it would have to take were it to give up its original plan.

[WOCHENPRESSE] But the real problems are still unsolved....

[Levy] Of course there are problems. Many things were settled behind our backs, and many things were not given to us in writing, such as Egypt's proposals that were coordinated with the PLO. But I believe that the attitude toward Israel is already changing. This is shown by President Bush's latest statements.

[WOCHENPRESSE] But the major problem remains. That is, whether Arabs from East Jerusalem and expatriates will be permitted to participate in a Palestinian negotiating delegation. Would you accept these people as partners in talks?

[Levy] For us, these are serious questions that by all means must be discussed with the United States. We are not looking for excuses, but some people say that Jerusalem (as early as now) must be an object of negotiations, and that therefore Arab representatives of this city have to be called in. They are calling for an immediate decision. We reject this. We do not see how the question of Jerusalem could be made part of the autonomy plan. This also contradicts the commitments of Camp David, where it was established that Jerusalem is to be discussed at the very end—when the final status is at issue. We say to the Americans: Why should we discuss this now, just because the PLO wants it? If we discuss it as early as now, the talks will fail.

[WOCHENPRESSE] Some weeks ago the United States broke off the dialogue with the PLO, but affirmed that it will be resumed as soon as 'Arafat fulfills Washington's conditions.

[Levy] The PLO has abused the United States' confidence. If the latest attack on the Israeli coast had been successful, this would have also concerned the United States.

[WOCHENPRESSE] Let us leave Washington aside. What is your view on the talks with Palestinians in Cairo, as suggested by President Mubarak?

[Levy] If Mubarak wants to promote the peace initiative by removing mines, we should not discuss now how he can achieve this. The place is not important. It need not be Cairo. Mubarak himself said so. It could also be Jerusalem, or talks could be held here and there—fifty-fifty.

[WOCHENPRESSE] Secretary of State James Baker thinks that Israel has tried for 23 years to find alternative partners to the PLO, but it has not succeeded....

[Levy] The Americans always told us—and also confirmed this in writing: You need not negotiate with the PLO. They repeated this only recently. They also said that they are not in favor of a Palestinian state. The Israeli-Palestinian dialogue should first deal with elections (in the occupied territories), then with an interim solution, and in the end with the final status. What can we do to prevent the talks from breaking down after the start? Israel would be held responsible for it. However, if we completely separate the three stages from each other, we will achieve a solution, at least in my opinion.

[WOCHENPRESSE] Do you, for security reasons, categorically reject a territorial retreat?

[Levy] I do not want to discuss this now—that is, the final status—in order to not obstruct the peace initiative. However, I personally believe that a Palestinian state would threaten Israel, as well as Jordan. There would not be peace, but insecurity and finally war.

[WOCHENPRESSE] Are you concerned about Jordan's future?

[Levy] I am concerned about insecurity in Jordan. We have a long border with Jordan, and we will certainly do nothing to undermine its stability.

Yeltsin Adviser Warns on Giving Credit to USSR

TA2907132090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jul 90 p A3

[Report by Isabella Ginor]

[Excerpts] Just as an economic delegation of the USSR central government is in Israel negotiating deals ranging from oil sales to the joint manufacture of aircraft, a senior economic spokesman of the Russian Republic warns: Israel will be required first of all to extend credit, yet today no credit should be given to Gorbachev's government.

(Vasiliy Slyunin), a prominent economic commentator and a member of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's brain trust, estimated in a telephone interview from Moscow that the defrayal of the entire debt incurred by the Soviet authorities will be eventually demanded of the republics—particularly of Russia. The latter is determined to stop using its main exports goods—the natural resources—as a lien for that end.

(Slyunin) said: Even if the proposed aircraft is a joint venture, Israel will finance it, first and foremost. You have to decide yourselves whether you are to grant that credit, but all I can say is that giving the USSR such credit at the present time—and this was discussed at the Houston conference—will only prolong the death throes of the government and the regime; they are bound to misuse it. [passage omitted]

"It would be conceivable for you to extend such credit and for us to receive it if we could only be certain that within three years, (Gorbachev's) proposed economic reforms will bear fruit and create a market economy and the beginning of recovery. But it appears at present that this government will cease to be, and the debt will after all fall on us, the Russian Republic. Although our government will be a national confidence government and will naturally assume the defrayal of debts, at present we take credit only if we can be certain that we will be able to repay the money through means other than Russia's natural resources."

Shamir, FRG Envoy Discuss German Unification

TA3007102990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Excerpt] West Germany's outgoing ambassador to Israel, Wilhelm Haas, met this morning with Prime Minister Shamir. The ambassador said the prime minister voiced concern over the effects of German unification on Israel. Afterwards, Ambassador Haas told reporter Ze'ev Kohen the Germans of today are not the same people as the Germans of the Nazi era. [passage omitted]

IAS Accepted by European Academy of Science

TA3107100690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Jul 90

[Reports by Judy Siegel]

[Excerpts] The Israel Academy of Sciences (IAS) has been accepted as a permanent member in the European Academy of Science, raising hopes here of increased cooperation in basic scientific research with European Community countries.

IAS president Prof. Joshua Jortner said yesterday that the IAS was invited to join by Prof. Raymond Daudel, the president of the European academy. Israel's attainment of full status in the European scientific roof organization was a welcome development, he added. "It will help us in our preparation for the unification of Europe in 1992." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Weizman Institute of Science in Rehovot and the USSR Research Centre for Cardiology in Moscow have signed a draft agreement for collaboration.

Jordanian Army Strengthens Forces on South Border

TA3107042590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Jordan has strengthened its forces along the southern border with Israel. A senior Israeli officer says the Jordanian Army has built new outposts, some of which are manned at night. The Jordanians have also built earthworks, improving their observation capability. The developments are linked to the incident a year ago near Kibbutz Lotan, when a Jordanian soldier kidnapped an Israeli female soldier and injured a tourist.

120,000 Jews to Territories Within Six Months

TA2807092590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Matityahu Drobles, head of the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department, has said that within six months 120,000 Jews will reside in settlements beyond the Green Line. Speaking before the Yeqev Club in the Qatif Bloc, Drobles said that by the year 2,000 there will be more than 60,000 Jewish residents in the Gaza Strip.

[Likud] Knesset Member Re'uven Rivlin has called on Minister Sharon to direct homeless young couples to settlements in the territories and to transfer funds to strengthen them.

15,700 New Immigrants Reported Arriving in July

TA3107083190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] In July, 15,700 new immigrants came to Israel, more than 14,000 of them from the Soviet Union. Our

correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh points out that these figures do not include the arrivals during the last two days of the month.

Cabinet Reaches No Resolution on Housing Plan

TA2907140190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The Cabinet concluded the discussion of the plan to build houses for new immigrants and homeless, presented by Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, without a resolution. The Cabinet will discuss the issue once again this Thursday.

The finance minister expressed reservations of the plan, and said that if housing is allocated so much money there will be no budget left to create new jobs. Our correspondent Ya'ir Fidel reports that several ministers questioned whether the economy can finance Minister Sharon's plan. The Finance Ministry will present its own construction plans in the next Cabinet session.

In the session, Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo demanded that the police be authorized 250 new slots to deal more effectively with the wave of arson against cars in Jerusalem. Minister Milo again presented his demand to acquire the needed materiel to set up a national traffic police.

Difficulty in Immigrant Absorption Foreseen

TA3007122090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Jul 90 p B1

[Commentary by Avraham Tal: "Absorption Throes"]

[Excerpts] Will immigrant absorption be the big fiasco of the 1990's? History was not very kind to us over the past two decades. The Yom Kippur War and its socioeconomic effects cast a heavy shadow on the 1970's, and the Lebanon war, coupled with rampant inflation and economic stagnation, did the same in the 1980's. Will the 1990's turn out to be the third decade to end with a negative balance? For years the renewal of the wave of immigration from the USSR stood at the pinnacle of the Zionist dream, constituting the central target of Israel's political efforts. Now that the road to the attainment of that goal and dream has been paved, there is great danger that we are on the brink of a blunder of historic proportions.

Nearly a year after having first learned that huge waves of immigration, the likes of which we have not witnessed since the 1950's, were imminent, and after the arrival of approximately 75,000 new immigrants, the government, the economy, and society are still unprepared for the future. This is manifest in various spheres. First of all, the cabinet's decisionmaking process is deficient. In November 1989 the cabinet prepared a budget based on a forecast of 40,000 new immigrants, knowing full well that at least 100,000 were expected; now, a supplementary budget has been submitted based on 96,000 new immigrants, with the prospects being for 150,000 or perhaps even 200,000. Admittedly, the budget includes a 1.4-billion shekel reserve for the absorption of additional new immigrants, but these funds were already partially used up even before the supplementary budget was approved due to the repeal of budgetary cuts which had been factored in before.

The cabinet, without which orderly absorption on such a scope is unimaginable, cannot itself function or activate other bodies in harmony. While different approaches to such a gargantuan mission can be expected among the various bodies involved in the project, so far the level of coordination that has been reached between the central players has been unsatisfactory, even on the most fundamental questions. Yitzhaq Moda'i, Ari'el Sharon, Yitzhaq Peretz, Moshe Nisim, and Mikha'el Bruno each pull in a different direction. The cabinet is called upon to pass resolutions on half-baked ideas and ends up teeter-tottering or otherwise wavering due to lack of desire or inability to make decisions. [passage omitted]

A drastic change must take place in the immigrant absorption mechanism to alter it completely from previous trends, for if the cabinet fails to improve its decisionmaking process or increase cooperation among the key ministers to force them to accept painful decisions, if the budget is not updated and revised in accordance with needs, and if businessmen and employees refuse to adjust their demands to the constraints forced upon us due to the situation, we can expect one of two scenarios:

—The housing crunch, and soon also the employment troubles, will worsen to the point where the wave of aliyah will die out by itself. Potential Soviet immigrants will reach the conclusion that the gloomy future they can expect in Israel nevertheless cannot justify their leaving the little they had back home, and will decide that it would be better for them to await another emigration opportunity.

—The cabinet may reach the conclusion—however grudgingly but without any other alternative—that to forestall the total collapse of sensitive social and economic fabrics, there will be no choice but to regulate aliyah and adjust it to absorption capability.

Both alternatives represent failure, but the latter is still preferable: It is better to have controlled failure than failure that has run rampant.

Foreign Ministry Denies Involvement in Radio

TA3007103790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Following this morning's NEW YORK TIMES report that the Foreign Ministry was allegedly paying foreign radio correspondents to portray Israel in a favorable light, the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem stated that about two weeks ago the Foreign Ministry terminated all contacts with these radio studios until after the matter has been fully investigated. He claimed that the question of appearances and possible conflicts of

interests cropped up during a routine examination of the project. The ministry therefore requested a detailed report on the studios' operations. The spokesman emphasized that, in any case, the Foreign Ministry never dictates modes of operation or stylistic fashions to any reporter.

Arens Orders Road Reinforcement; IDF Concerned

TA2907135990 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Jul 90 p A2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has ordered the setting up of another 50 lookout posts on problematic routes in Judaea and Samaria. This order is part of Arens' policy to focus on the safety of roads and civilian traffic. Setting up each lookout post costs some 80,000 shekels. Today there are several dozen such posts throughout Judaea and Samaria. They were set up during the term of the previous defense minister, Yitzhaq Rabin. The posts overlook the roads and are manned 24 hours a day. Last Friday [27 July] it was first reported that the defense minister has instructed further reinforcement of the units patrolling the roads after a decline in stone-throwing incidents was noted.

Standing infantry soldiers will reinforce the units.

Senior elements in the IDF [Israel Defense Force] have expressed worry over the defense minister's policy, and fear of getting carried away with the policy of reinforcement which "eventually would hurt routine training and courses of the standing Army units."

'Policy of Restraint' Enforced in Gaza Strip

TA3007042090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, has been enforcing a policy of restraint in the Gaza Strip for the past two months. The Israeli Army has not been opening fire when faced with rioting and stone throwing unless the incidents reach large dimensions. Consequently, not even one death by Israeli Army gunfire has been registered in the last two months.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the order to this effect was issued following the murders in Rishon Leziyyon. According to it, only a brigade commander holding the rank of colonel is authorized to order the opening of fire. The Civil Administration reports that prominent figures in the Gaza Strip perceive this as a positive move.

Our correspondent points out that seven local inhabitants were murdered on suspicion of collaborating with Israel, three firebombs were thrown, and 14 Israeli soldiers were slightly injured in the Gaza Strip this past month.

Three Arabs Accused of Plotting To Kill Levi

TA3107044290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] In Jericho last night two firebombs were thrown at an Israeli vehicle. Two passengers were injured and taken to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital. The Army has imposed a curfew on the village 'Aqabat Jabr and is searching the area. Several suspects have been arrested.

Three Arabs from Jericho are accused of plotting to assassinate Deputy Premier David Levi. The indictment says one of the suspects, Ahmad Awtallah, was to assassinate Levi when the minister drove daily from his home in Bet She'an to Jerusalem. The three are also charged with smuggling revolvers into Israel from Jordan in their trucks.

In East Jerusalem, a firebomb was thrown at a Border Police jeep near the Augusta Victoria Church. The bottle hit the jeep's windshield, but did not shatter or catch fire. There were no casualties.

In the Gaza Strip, a 15-year-old resident of the al-Shati' refugee camp has been seriously wounded. He was taken to Tel Hashomer Hospital. The Army is investigating the circumstances of his injury.

Husayn Returns From Visits to Iraq, Kuwait

JN3007180790 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and the accompanying delegation this evening returned home following a working visit to the Republic of Iraq and the State of Kuwait. During the two-day visit, his majesty held talks with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, amir of Kuwait. His majesty's talks were aimed at bringing the views of the two fraternal countries closer in order to safeguard the unity of Arab ranks and the march of solidarity. [passage omitted]

'Sources' Say Husayn To Visit U.S.

JN3007091790 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Jordanian monarch King Husayn will visit the United States at the beginning of October. Jordanian sources close to the king said this will be one of the most important visits to Washington in view of the sensitive situation in the Middle East and the stumbling peace efforts. AL-ITTIHAD also learned that Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim has received a message from his U.S. counterpart James Baker dealing with the major topics to be discussed during the Husayn-Bush meeting, which will focus on peace efforts in the Middle East, the Jordanian role in these efforts, Palestinian-U.S. relations, and U.S. military and economic aid to Jordan. These sources have asserted that a Palestinian-Jordanian formula will be reached prior to King Husayn's visit to Washington, which will be the focus of the talks with the U.S. side. The sources did not rule out the possibility that the formula of Jordanian-Palestinian relations to be agreed upon will be similar to the Jordanian-Palestinian accord which was canceled in 1985.

Paper Considers U.S. Role in Iraqi-Kuwaiti Talks

JN2907080290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Jul 90 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "No Role for Washington in the Arab Arena"]

[Text] Iraqi-Kuwaiti talks will begin in Jeddah today after Arab efforts succeeded in containing the Iraqi-Kuwaiti situation under the Arab umbrella. Therefore, the Arab masses look forward to the upcoming meeting between high-ranking Iraqi and Kuwaiti officials as a new starting point to strengthen Arab solidarity and to remind those who have attempted to poke their noses into the affairs of the two sisterly countries that the summer cloud between Iraq and Kuwait is now vanishing and that they will never be able to play a role in the Arab arena.

The United States' failure to internationalize the Iraqi-Kuwaiti situation is an affirmation of the pan-Arab awareness expressed by both countries. It seems that this failure has not put an end to hostile U.S. practices against Iraq but rather so infuriated Washington that the U.S. Senate adopted measures calling for economic sanctions on Iraq!! No doubt this hostile position will never succeed in inciting any Arab side against Iraq. Therefore, it will not succeed in disrupting the Iraqi-Kuwaiti talks, which will begin in Jeddah today. Moreover, we say that this position will strengthen Arab solidarity with Iraq as well as consolidate the Arab conviction that negative U.S. practices in the region must be confronted collectively and seriously.

Needless to say, U.S. sanctions will not make Iraq budge an inch from its pan-Arab stand and practices. Iraq, which defended the Arab countries and thus was able to improve the prospects for the peace of the courageous with Iran, will not be affected by U.S. interference. It is important that Washington realize that this interference will only worsen its dark image in the Arab arena and fill the Arabs with bitterness. This means that the United States is only harming itself whenever it attempts to harm Iraq.

The clock will not turn back. The era of domination and hegemony has gone for good. Washington is mistaken in thinking that it is able to make use of the current state of international detente to impose its domination over the Gulf. The Arab nation with its strong determination is capable of defending itself more than at any other time before because it has chosen life, dignity, and peace. Those who choose life, dignity, and peace will not be intimidated by economic sanctions and all sorts of provocations.

Egypt's 'Abd-Al-Majid Views Talks With Iraq

JN3007074090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Jul 90 p 1

[By Caroline Faraj—"Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[Text] Amman—Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said Sunday that Cairo was keen on containing the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait and was making every possible efforts to arrange a meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y and the JORDAN TIMES, 'Abd-al-Majid said he would try to arrange such a meeting in Cairo, where both ministers will be taking part in a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO].

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz are expected to be among those attending the OIC meeting.

In a reply to a question on an apparent strain in relations between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), 'Abd-al-Majid said: "The question would better be addressed to the PLO because Egypt has not created this crisis."

He said Egypt is willing to overcome all such crises through consultations and coordination and noted that

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat recently met in Ta'izz, Yemen, and reviewed the situation.

"We still have a long way to go together, 'Abd-al-Majid said. [quotation mark as published]

His recent visit to the United States, the minister said, followed contacts between U.S. President George Bush and Mubarak. He said his mission was to explain the situation in the region and the latest developments after Washington suspended the Palestinian-American dialogue.

"Following my return, I made several contacts with the PLO leadership and informed them of Egypt's keen interest to maintain coordination with the PLO," the minister said.

He added that his country was committed to following the path of peace, "despite all difficulties because peace—just and honourable peace—is essential for the world at large."

He said the Palestine question "is the central question of all Arabs" and voiced pride in the Palestinian uprising, "which has changed the equilibrium in the region and created a new situation."

Asked if his country intends to resume diplomatic relations with Iran, the minister said he would discuss this issue with the Iranian delegation taking part in the OIC foreign ministers meeting which opens in Cairo Tuesday.

Columnist Calls for Arabs To 'Punish' U.S.

JN3007071490 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Jul 90 Second Edition p 16

["An Issue and a Cause" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "Should We Try the Eye-for-an-Eye Policy?"]

[Text] It is neither strange nor surprising to anyone that the U.S. Administration has begun interrogating and calling to account one or the other Arab systems and applying sanctions against it. Sometimes these sanctions are economic. At other times they consist of political pressures. And yet again they consist of threats to demolish the system by conspiring against it internally and externally.

It is not at all strange or surprising to anyone that the U.S. Administration stopped its dialogue with the PLO and does not intend to resume it except under difficult conditions.

The successive U.S. administrations have become accustomed to this manner and have followed it and harvested its fruit. They tried it time and time again in their dealings with the Palestinians and the Arabs and it worked. Why should they not continue to use it as long as it continues to yield results and is to their advantage?

U.S. administrations punished 'Abd-al-Nasir's system and the Arabs were silent about it. They punished Iraq a few times and the Arabs said nothing. They punished Libya and Jordan and the Arabs kept mum. Today, it is punishing Iraq and the PLO and the Arabs are still silent. Therefore, what would deter the U.S. Administration from using this system, as long as the Arabs are quiet and it wields a free hand in each of these countries individually, dealing with them them as it pleases?

The U.S. Administration wants the Arab countries to submit totally to its will and implement its political, economic, and military programs, or to clam up and withdraw into their own shell, at best.

If an Arab country refuses to submit or to remain silent, the fierce U.S. wrath which knows no mercy attacks it. It is blacklisted as a terrorist country and is sanctioned economically. The wheel of the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy starts turning against it to besiege and contain it, then topple its regime, if possible.

From the U.S. point of view, the Arab countries must be a closed-circuit region of U.S. influence where they, their allies, and their agents have a free hand.

How long will this U.S. way prevail in our country? Or will it never end? Or will the spiritless Arab silence never end? Why do the Arabs not punish the U.S. administrations, which have always been their enemies—and still are—when they are capable of dealing them the strictest and most painful punishments?

Why do they not deal with them on the eye-for-an-eye and tooth-for-a-tooth basis? Will they not try it—at least once?

Al-Qasim Receives USSR's Tarasov 29 Jul

JN3007105390 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Amman, 30 July (PETRA)—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received yesterday Mr. Gennadiy Tarasov, assistant Soviet deputy foreign minister for Middle Eastern affairs, currently visiting Jordan for talks on current developments in the region.

Al-Qasim on Immigration Threat to Water Resources

JN3007132990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Jordan will stress the dangers inherent in Jewish immigration at the Islamic foreign ministers' conference set to get under way in Cairo tomorrow.

He told PETRA that the influx of Jews into the occupied land is bound to increase Israel's future water requirements. Al-Qasim stated that Israel is confiscating water from the Jordan, stretches of the al-Yarmuk and Litani Rivers, and underground water in occupied Palestine. With Jewish immigrants arriving in such numbers, Israel's water needs of no less than 500 million cubic meters per year can only be met through expansion and aggression against Arab territory. Al-Qasim said that the

protection of Arab water sources must be approached from a pan-Arab security perspective. Toward that end, the minister added, the Arab states must cooperate and coordinate their moves and seek the support of the Islamic countries.

Ministers Establish Fund, Water Commission

JN3007202690 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] The Council of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development concluded its three-day meetings today in Amman. More in the following report:

During the council's meetings in the past three days the Arab agriculture ministers discussed a number of issues, foremost of which were the problems of Arab food security and water, which most Arab countries are currently experiencing.

Participants in this Arab agricultural meeting all emphasized that coordination was needed to enhance the level of agricultural production, as well as coordination and integration among Arab countries in this field. An agreement was reached to establish a general Arab commission for water and grains and an Arab fund for agricultural development to take care of and support Arab agricultural projects.

The participants also discussed issues pertaining to the council's administrative structure and financial situation. It is to be noted that these meetings came up with a number of decisions and recommendations that will soon be put in place. Dr. Sulayman 'Arabiyat, agriculture minister and chairman of the council's current session, spoke to us about the most important decisions and recommendations:

[Begin 'Arabiyat recording] As I have mentioned, the important decisions made previously contain a recommendation to set up a number of Arab commissions, such as a higher commission for water, as well as an Arab fund for agricultural development and to prepare major studies about this issue, even if this calls for an extraordinary conference of the council of Arab agriculture ministers, especially in connection to the higher committee of water in the present circumstances. There are important issues that relate to the reorganization of the council and its relationship with the Economic and Social Council and the Arab League, which is an umbrella organization for all Arab establishments and institutions. We also have the green belts in the Arab nation, which is a big project that costs about $1.5 million. This project will be first implemented in Arab Africa and then in other areas in the Arab homeland. [end recording]

The Arab agriculture ministers and heads of the delegations taking part in the meetings this afternoon visited the Royal Scientific Society, where they were informed of the services and scientific counsel it provides in all areas. At the conclusion of their meeting, the Arab agriculture ministers sent a cable of thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn for patronizing their extraordinary session.

Tahir Notes Budgetary Impact of Oil Price Hike

JN3107091490 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Jul 90 Second Edition pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHA'B—Dr. Thabit al-Tahir, minister of energy and mineral resources, has said that an oil price increase to $21 per barrel will mean a $9 million-per-month increase in Jordan's oil bill.

The minister added that this increase will cost Jordan more considerable financial burdens that were not taken into account when the 1990 budget was drafted. Jordan imported 1.5 million barrels in June at a price of $15 per barrel.

Al-Tahir expressed the hope that it will be possible to address this issue in a manner that will alleviate these burdens. [passage omitted]

Deputies May Withdraw Support for Government

PM2707153690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jul 90 p 2

[Layla Dib report: "Jordanian House of Representatives Discusses Withdrawing Confidence from Government"]

[Excerpts] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—A series of meetings and consultations were held last week in the Jordanian House of Representatives by a number of representatives, including Democratic Grouping representatives, independents, and Islamic Bloc members to ask the leadership of the house to allocate a session to reconsidering the confidence granted to Mr. Mudar Badran's government with a view to withdrawing it.

Sources close to the representatives said that they believe that the government has failed to fulfill its commitments and to achieve any of the things mentioned in its statement issued early in the year or any of the promises made by the prime minister to the House of Representatives. [passage omitted]

Asked about the possibility of the Islamic movement representatives' withdrawing their confidence from Mr. Badran's government, the sources said that it was difficult to know for certain but some expressed fears about withdrawing their confidence, which shows that there is no firm inclination to do so.

Other sources, however, have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Islamic movement representatives plan to withdraw their confidence during the ordinary session in November.

With regard to their opinion of the National Bloc, the sources said that the Bloc differs a little with the government but agrees with it a lot. It is concerned about its electoral support, which is why it announces its intention

to withdraw its confidence from the government but takes no practical steps in that direction.

Regarding the Democratic Grouping, the sources said that it is divided and that it is not certain that it will take a single step or adopt a unified position with regard to the withdrawal of confidence. Some members of the Grouping have withdrawn their confidence from the government, some have abstained from voting, and others have granted it their confidence.

The sources added: It is difficult to predict the Grouping's position, but it is likely to favor the withdrawal of confidence. [passage omitted]

There are other reports that His Majesty King Husayn could block the House by dismissing the present government and designating somebody else, whom some people expect to be former Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, present chairman of the commission entrusted with drawing up the national charter. Meanwhile, the Jordanian monarch is said to be seeking to form a national unity government in present circumstances.

Finance Minister Comments on Economic Growth

JN2807080990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jul 90 pp 1, 5

[By P.V. Vivekanand, staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Against a backdrop of definite indicators of positive economic performance after a period of stagnation, the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank are working on a comprehensive plan to manage Jordan's foreign debts, involving conversion of part of those debts to investments, repayment in kind, and buy-back of commercial debts at a discounted rate, according to the finance minister, Basil Jardanah.

Despite a drawback in the area of rock phosphate exports to Eastern Europe, "our economic performance in the first six months of 1990 has been good," Jardanah told reporters Friday.

Presenting an evaluation of the situation as seen by the Ministry of Finance at an informal briefing for the press, the minister pointed out that the dinar has stabilised after over 18 months of uncertainty and fluctuation, and said that the foreign exchange reserves were healthy, certain important sectors have registered growth in the first six months of the year, and a better balance has been achieved between imports and exports.

Another major indicator, the minister said, is a rise in expatriate remittances, one of Jordan's major foreign exchange sources but which registered a sharp drop in 1988 and 1989. The Kingdom's gross reserves of foreign exchange is expected to be around $800 million by the end of the year, the minister said.

According to Jardanah, in certain aspects the Kingdom's situation today were as good as in 1985 or 1986. Despite a setback in exports of phosphate rocks to Eastern Europe, the gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to register a growth of not less than two per cent in real terms during the year, he said.

"The GDP growth in constant terms is not affected very much by the devaluation of the dinar because it is based on a quantum approach," the minister told the briefing, arranged by the Ministry of Information.

The minister provided a sector-by-sector assessment of the economy's performance during the first six months of 1990 as compared to the corresponding period of 1989.

—Construction: Consumption of cement has gone up by 3.5 per cent compared with a decline of 6.5 per cent. This rise indicates an increase in construction activity, Jardanah said. "This sector will show a good increase by the end of the year," he said.

—Agriculture: reports of prices and figures available from the Ministry of Agriculture indicate a growth of 10 per cent in real terms.

—Expatriate remittances: Although no definite official figures are available yet, the minister said, "at least two major banks in the country report a growth in expatriate remittances." While one bank has registered an increase of about 43 per cent, another has reported a 35-per-cent increase, he said.

"It is a very encouraging development and we hope the trend will continue," he said.

The minister expects the total expatriate remittances to be in the region of $800 million during 1990, compared with $640 million in 1989. This projected increase, according to Jardanah, is a direct result of "regaining confidence in the performance of the national economy and the stabilisation of the dinar."

"The Balance of services in the past year has shown a deterioration and we hope to see that the downward trend is reversed and we will have an improvement as of this year," Jardanah said.

—Bank deposits: Deposits in foreign currency from the private sector with the Kingdom's commercial banks increased by JD 40 million to JD 800 million in the first six months of 1990, Jardanah reported.

—Employment: Statistics indicate that the demand for skilled and unskilled labour is increasing, and this is very much visible in the construction and agricultural sectors where the wages are going up, the minister said.

However, he observed that the problem of unemployment remains unaddressed among university and community college graduates, particularly females. "Unfortunately, the problem of structural unemployment is still facing the country," he said. "Not much progress has been made in this respect."

—Prices: Cost of living indices indicate an actual rise of eight per cent during the first six months of 1990

compared with 25 per cent of the whole of 1989. "We expect a further reduction by the end of the year in light of the stabilisation of the dollar, [as published] and the annual rise should remain at the same level," as against an expected 12 per cent in the restructuring programme agreed with the IMF, Jardanah said.

—Exports and imports: According to figures available from the Department of Customs, imports in dollar terms during the first six months of this year declined by three per cent while exports in dollar terms registered a growth of four per cent. Jardanah said imports might register an increase by the end of the year.

The Kingdom imported goods worth $1.118 billion during the first six months of 1990 while the figure was $1.150 billion for the same period of 1989. Including the amount of reexports, the deficit in the balance of trade was $600 million, "almost equal to that of the same period in 1989," according to Jardanah.

The minister explained that the total amount of Jordan's national exports during the first six months of this year was $450 million while it was $430 million for the same period in 1989. However, he said, "because of the confusion in Eastern Europe (following the political upheavals there) Jordan's exports of phospate rocks there declined by $25 million. This will have its effect on GDP and export performances." However, this decline only affected rock phosphates, he said. The Kingdom exported phosphates and related products worth $180 million in the first six months of 1990 while the corresponding figure for 1989 was $205 million.

Under Jordan's economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in April 1989, exports were projected to grow by six per cent in 1990 and imports to rise by five per cent.

The Chamber of Industry is projecting total national exports of JD 700 million for the year 1990. Minister of Industry of Trade Ziyad Fariz has said the expectation is "realistic."

Eastern Europe used to account for almost one third of Jordan's phosphate exports. The Kingdom earned a total of $434 million in 1989 from phosphate exports totalling 6.4 million tonnes—the highest ever in the country's history. (Economists and industry circles do not expect the decline in Jordanian phosphate rock exports to Eastern Europe to continue since the political situation in most countries there is slowly clearing up. "For this year perhaps, there could be a setback as far as Jordan's exports to these countries are concerned," said an expert in Eastern European consumption of fertilisers. "They have to finalise orders and delivery schedules for the year 1991 before the end of the year if they are to maintain their level of agriculture production.")

Figures of reexports from the Kingdom have registered a "sharp decline" when compared with the corresponding period for 1989, Jardanah said Friday. He explained that the shortfall was mainly due to the fact that the 1989 figures included the sale of Royal Jordanian aircraft.

The gross foreign exchange reserves of the country now stand at $650 million, excluding $100 million in reciprocative deposits from the central banks of Gulf states at CBJ. The net reserves, the minister said, excluding $380 million in mandatory deposits of commercial banks at the CBJ now stand at $270 million.

Jardanah underlined the signifance of the new figures by pointing out that the country's gross reserves stood at $110 million at the beginning of 1989, further dipping to $63 million by April 1989. However, it rose to $434 million by the end of 1989 after the Kingdom implemented the restructuring programme agreed with the IMF, and after it received Arab assistance and enforced stricter foreign exchange regulations.

After settling all outstanding payments of interests on foreign loans, and repayment of principal, mostly to Arab financing agencies and other institutions, the Kingdom's gross reserves should be $800 million—excluding the Gulf deposits—and the set reserve (i.e. excluding the obligatory commercial bank deposits) would be around $400 million if it receives a total of $500 million in Arab financial assistance by the end of 1990 including the aid already received, Jardanah said.

The national budget for 1990 projects Arab aid of $360 million, and the Kingdom has already received $295 million in Arab assistance this year and secured concrete pledges of another $75 million.

A breakdown of the amount actually received shows that $100 million came from Saudi Arabia, $50 million in cash and $35 million in oil from Kuwait, $60 million from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), $25 million from Iraq, $20 million from Qatar and $5 million from Oman. The pledges comprise $25 million from Iraq, and $25 million in cash and $25 million in oil from Kuwait the Kuwaiti assistance in kind is being received by the Kingdom at the rate of $5 million every month).

Senior officials have said that the $100 million received from Saudi Arabia was the first installment of Riyadh's assistance to Jordan this year, and more was expected to come. But no definite figures have been mentioned except that the total Arab aid during the year would exceed the half-a-billion dollar mark.

Jordan, whose foreign debts now stand at $8.4 billion, needs $500 million for servicing interests on its foreign debts every year, Jardanah noted. Other officials have said the Kingdom would be able to manage well in most areas while also maintaining its defence capabilities if it receives an annual aid of $1 billion for the next several years.

The Kingdom has concluded bilateral debt rescheduling agreements with all except four governments represented in the 14-member Paris Club, the minister said. "One of the governments is not interested in negotiating with us," he said without disclosing the name of country. "We have almost reached agreement with another, and are negotiating with the other two," he added without elaboration.

According to reports in the international press, the four countries are Belgium, Britain, Kuwait and Sweden.

The Kingdom's total debt to the countries represented in Paris Club is about $3.56 billion Jordan has already reached a broad agreement with the Paris Club for rescheduling debt repayments totalling $2.49 billion due in 1989 and 1990, and the negotiations Jardanah referred to are on the bilateral agreements and executive terms which follow such an accord.

Jordan has also reached agreement with the London Club of commercial creditors on rescheduling debt repayments involving a total of $575 million due until June 1991. The Kingdom is now negotiating an agreement from the London Club on its debt buy-back plan and has tabled a proposal to the group. "They will review the proposal in early August, and we hope to reach agreement before the end of August," Jardanah said. Indications are that Jordan's debts are available in the market at a discounted rate of 70 cents to the dollar.

The minister did not specify any figure for the amount targeted under the debt buy-back plan. "We have to find out how much of Jordan's commercial debts are on the market," he said. The total amount Jordan owes to the London Club, which represents over 90 commercial banks and financial institutions, is $1.3 billion.

The Kingdom has to finalise all agreements with London and Paris clubs before September this year before it can open further negotiations to reschedule its debts payments due in 1990. (from July 1991 in the case of London Club since the $575 million already agreed upon covers the period until June 1991).

Discussing the Kingdom's medium-term and long-term plans, Jardanah said the ministry was contemplating a three-pronged debt management plan. The first is conversion of foreign debts into assets through encouraging creditors to invest part of their dues in joint ventures in the Kingdom under bilateral agreements to be worked out.

"We will try to use our foreign debts as an asset and instrument rather than a bottleneck in the process of economic development, according to Jardanah. The minister cited 50 per cent as a possible contribution from the Jordanian side to projects initiated by the Kingdom's creditors in lieu of the Kingdom's debts.

Answering a question, the minister pointed out that Jordan does not qualify for any "debt write-off" by any of its creditors under the Toronto Protocol since the annual per capital income of the Kingdom was higher than the $800 set under the protocol.

The second part of the debt management plan is using the "idle capacity" of Jordanian industries to produce goods to be supplied to creditors in exchange for debt payments.

Jordan's cement factores are working in full capacity now and the Kingdom will export 200,000 tonnes of cement this month, Jardanah said. He did not say where the consignment was destined.

The third part of the Kingdom's approach is the debt buy-back plan. During the last round of discussions with the London Club, in London, "we could not agree on the terms of the buy-back," he said, adding that efforts are on track to reach agreement on the basis of the Jordanian proposal. "We are optimistic that they will react to it in a positive manner and we can agree on this outstanding issue since the other issues that remain are of a very minor nature."

According to the minister, Jordan was encouraged to pursue the debt buy-back plan since funds could be made available from the World Bank and other international agencies.

"Instead of having commercial loans at high interest rates with short-term maturity, they (World Bank) give loans which are softer, with a longer maturity and lower interest and the loans could be converted into a new debt to the World Bank," he said. "...And instead of converting into one dollar to one dollar, you convert it into 50 to 70 cents to one dollar."

This debt buy-back plan could get off the ground in six months' time if the London Club gives it the green signal and the Jordanian government endorses it, Jardanah said.

Another related plan under study involves securing funds for debt buy-back through government bonds in Arab markets. The minister said it was too early to discuss any specific target figures since it remained to be seen how the market will react to the entire Jordanian approach to buying back its debts.

Ambassadors Informed of Campaign To Isolate 'Awn

NC3007094990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] As part of the diplomatic campaign to isolate General 'Awn, launched by the government today, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Suhayl Shammas received French Ambassador Rene Ala and British Ambassador David Tathan and informed them of the government's decision to sever all contacts with Gen. 'Awn.

Shammas also received West German Ambassador Wolfgang Gottelmann and the Soviet and Chinese charges d'affaires.

Ambassador Ala promised to convey the Lebanese Government's resolutions to his government, while the British ambassador stressed that he has no role in Lebanon's internal affairs. The Soviet charge d'affaires said his country supports the legitimate authority's measures.

The West German ambassador declined to make any statement, but noted that progress is being made and expressed hope for the best.

In another development, Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, director of the Foreign Ministry's political affairs department, met with the Libyan, Indian, Brazilian, and Venezuelan ambassadors and the Bulgarian charge d'affaires.

After the meeting, the Libyan ambassador said: We have full confidence in the wisdom of President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Huss in taking the measures to assert the state's unity and stability.

[In another report at 0945 GMT, Radio Free Lebanon adds that Shammas also received the Italian, Algerian, Egyptian, Indian, Brazilian, Venezuelan, and Korean ambassadors and the Bulgarian charge d'affaires.]

Blockade Extended to Fuel

NC3007164290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Citing official Lebanese sources, REUTER reports that the government began tightening its blockade on the areas under the control of Michel 'Awn as a first step toward ending his mutiny. The entry of fuel into these areas was banned as of this morning. Army Commander General Emile Lahhud is expected to define the general trend of the army's responsibilities in this regard in the order of the day he will issue on the occasion of Army Day, which falls tomorrow, 1 August.

Defense Minister Comments

NC3107063990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Defense Minister Albert Mansur has affirmed that the government wants its measures [against 'Awn] to be geared as much as possible to removing the obstacle of rebellion. He said it is our firm decision to eliminate this obstacle.

Speaking after his visit with Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente, Mansur said that in introducing these measures, we want to avoid causing the ordinary citizens any harm. We also try to avoid reaching the point of blind violence and we hope we will not be forced to do something that could harm the citizens. He added that his ministry intends gradually to undertake several measures, beginning with the speech that Army Commander Emille Lahhud will deliver on Army Day.

Mansur said there will be no specific time limit for implementing these measures, but he will try to make it as short as possible, even if compelled to carry out a decisive action.

Al-Huss Reportedly To Seek Islamic States' Help

LD3007104990 Kuwait KUNA in English 1013 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Beirut, July 30 (KUNA)—Lebanon will seek the help of Islamic countries to counter Israeli plots aimed at usurping parts of its lands and waters, diplomatic sources told KUNA here Monday.

The sources said that Lebanese premier Salim al-Huss, who also doubles for foreign minister, will make this appeal in his address before the Islamic foreign ministers' conference, due to open in Cairo tuesday. Dr. al-Huss will request Islamic countries to raise the issue of Israeli expansionist schemes during the coming session of the U.N. Security Council, they indicated.

The sources said that Lebanon will bring up the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and its danger to Lebanon. Al-Huss will also present the conference with a document on Israel's appropriation of large parts of (?farms) on the borders with occupied Palestine, in preparation for re-settling Soviet and Ethiopian Jews in these areas. The document includes statements by the Jordanian irrigation (?minister) and another by an Israeli official on stealing waters of Litani River.

The Lebanese premier will also request the assistance of member states to rebuild his country, ravaged by 15 years of civil war, through contributions to the 2-billion dollar international fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon, which was propsoed by the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon.

Threats against the Lebanese community in a number of African nations, particularly those which restored their ties with the Jewish state, are to be raised as well.

Army Commander Addresses Military on Army Day

NC3107102690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Army Commander General Emile Lahhud has called for a heroic stand by all the military, wherever they are, so the army can regain its unity, restore its

strength, and prove wrong those who bet on the continued disintegration of the army and the destruction of what is left of the homeland.

In the order of the day addressed to the military on the occasion of Army Day, Gen. Lahhud underscored the march to rebuild the army in steady steps that avoid making mistakes, so we might not pay dearly for hasty experiments and incorrect estimates. He stressed that the army will be a mirror of the people's loyalty, identity, and originality, away from political and domestic disputes.

In a related issue, Brigadier General Elie Hayik, commander of the Jabal Lubnan military zone, has stressed on behalf of Army Commander Gen. Lahhud that the Lebanese Army will remain an arbiter among all parties and will not be dragged into domestic conflicts. He said the army needs to be rebuilt and have its strength, unity, and vigor restored to prove wrong those who are counting on its continued disintegration.

Brig. Gen. Hayik was speaking during a cermony at Sarba Barracks as part of Army Day celebrations. During the cermony, Brig. Gen. Hayik reviewed the military units, including units from Halat air base, Juniyah naval base, and Sarba and 'Amshit Barracks. He then laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier.

Syria Backs Army Deployment in Iqlim Al-Tuffah

NC3107060790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Regarding the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah, senior officials expect that active efforts will be exerted with Tehran and Damascus this week in a bid to put an end to the bloodshed and fighting. These sources affirmed that the Syrian leadership yesterday summoned delegations from the Amal Movement and Hizballah. Both delegations were notified of a firm Syrian stand that the Lebanese army's entry into Iqlim al-Tuffah is inescapable and that blocking the army's deployment will be considered as opposition to President al-Asad personally.

Syrian Group To Repair Television Transmitter

NC3007093290 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 23 Jul 90 p 8

[Text] The Syrian Social Nationalist Party-Emergency Command [SSNP-EC] has for some time been trying to repair the television transmitter which is located in Fi' [northern Lebanon], the stronghold of the party's allies and supporters. In this context, the party is trying to purchase a new transmitter to boost its broadcasts.

The SSNP-EC had turned the Fi' center, which was originally used as a relay station for Lebanese television, into an independent television station broadcasting programs and news bulletins which had no connection with the other television stations in Lebanon.

'Awn on Government Measures, Ibrahim Talks

NC3007122290 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn has said that the al-Huss government's siege on the eastern area is part of a new attempt to involve the country in military actions. He added: We have countered the attempt to besiege the citizens and to starve them again by reopening the crossing points and roads.

In an interview with AL-ANWAR, Gen. 'Awn stressed that there will be absoluetly no capitulation regardless of any steps taken because we must fulfill the promise we made to the people. He noted that dealing positively with the al-Ta'if accord as a framework for and a way to a solution does not mean abandoning national principles that the creators of al-Ta'if ignored, and hence must be changed and amended to straighten out the situation.

Gen. 'Awn stressed that his many positive responses to ensure the success of the Arab endeavors were met with intransigence. He noted that discussions with Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi focused on the need to take into account the observations about the al-Ta'if accord since the latter is not something sacred. But the Arab envoy could not give any responsive proposal on this issue.

Gen. 'Awn issued a decree last night reopening all crossing points in both directions 24 hours day.

Israeli Officers Said Assisting Lebanese Forces

NC3007084690 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 23 Jul 90 p 7

[Text] A high-ranking official in the Lebanese Government has told a political figure that he has information revealing that 85 Israeli officers and experts are present in the eastern areas controlled by the Lebanese Forces.

According to the official, the Israelis are supervising the artillery and rocket emplacements of the Lebanese Forces.

Fadlallah Said To Offer Base to Iraqi Dissidents

NC3007104890 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 23 Jul 90 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Islamic Iraqi Groups Examine Fadlallah's Offer To Make Lebanon Their Base"]

[Text] Islamic Iraqi groups in Iran are in a tight spot, under pressure from two sources. On the one hand, the Iranian authorities are negotiating both secretly and publicly with Iraq to end the state of war between the two countries. One of Iran's offers to Iraq is to freeze the activities of the Islamic Iraqi groups in Tehran and other Iranian cities in return for ending the work of Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi in Iraq.

Baghdad has not yet responded to the Iranian offer, but the Iraqi groups are already packing to leave Iran. The destination of these groups has not yet been decided. The

geographic factor is crucial in this respect. [sentence as published] Besides, the multiplicity of these groups does not make the choice of destination a simple matter.

On the other hand, the Iranian masses blame these groups for involving their country in a devastating war with Iraq.

Increasing numbers of Iranians feel that the Islamic Iraqi groups—noticeably their leaders—have a lavish social and economic life-style including offices, cars, escort, and banquets, while the average Iranians suffer high prices, food shortages, faltering publics services, and devaluation of currency. Some elements of these Islamic groups were accused of involvement in black market rackets in Tehran and other Iranian towns.

Meanwhile, the mother of Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim has called her son and asked him to have mercy on the remainder of his family, after his positions and policies led to the liquidation of over 90 members of his family. Al-Hakim recently met with his cousin Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, who is both a leader of Lebanon's Hizballah and member of the command council of the Regional Call Party [hizb al-da'wah al-iqlimi], in Qom. Al-Hakim is seriously considering Fadlallah's offer to come to Lebanon and make it a base for its movement against Iraq. Fadlallah offered al-Hakim his protection whether he chooses to live in the Southern Suburb, al-Biqa', or Iqlim al-Tuffah. The Southern Suburb is where Fadlallah lives in a secure residential block of 40 apartments. No less than 200 of his party's members, in addition to his own escort, also live there. There, al-Hakim will have the benefit of Fadlallah's access to round-the-clock international telephone services, satellite communications, as well as the latter's access to local and international media. Hizballah has bases in al-Biqa' and has occupied Iqlim al-Tuffah, with the help of Israel, in gradual attempts that began 19 months ago.

As the remainder of the Islamic Iraqi groups in Tehran and Qom ponder the question of their nearing departure from Iran, they find no other offer than that which Fadlallah made to his cousin. Will Lebanon, and more specifically the areas under Fadlallah's control, whether in Jabal 'Amil, al-Biqa', or the suburb, become the new launching pad for these groups? Will these groups be able to survive in the Lebanese conditions and under the control of Fadlallah and his party? Have not these groups had enough of popular hatred to dissuade it from placing themselves in confrontation of the Shiite masses in Lebanon? Does not the prospect of Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation in the near future bring new worries to these groups, who will find their options limited either to going back home or migrating to the West? These are the questions these groups are currently facing and that are adding to their internal conflicts.

Next week, God willing, we will review some of the statements in which these groups attack each other. This will help shed some light on the nature of the infighting in their midst now that Iran is abandoning them, exactly as they had abandoned their homeland.

'Hundreds' of Iranian Revolutionary Guards Arrive

NC3107125090 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 30 Jul 90 p 6

[Text] In preparation for the third war in Iqlim al-Tuffah hundreds of Iranian Revolutionary Guards have arrived in Lebanon in during the past two months to be distributed in fighting groups for operations of a special nature.

In addition to Iqlim al-Tuffah, these groups operations will also cover Beirut Southern Suburb and West Beirut. Their main headquarters is in Ba'labakk district. They have their own barracks in al-Shams city from which they take off to carry out their operations under the Hizballah umbrella.

Reportage Continues on Iqlim Al-Tuffah Fighting

Bomb Damages Dissidents' Offices

NC2907122190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Citing security sources, REUTER reports that a bomb exploded at the offices of the group which broke away from the leader of the Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC] in south Lebanon. The sources said that the explosion caused considerable damage to the dissidents' headquarters in the al-Rashidiyah camp. They pointed out that Abu-Sufyan [real name unknown], leader of the dissidents from the Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group, and three others were seriously wounded and taken to a hospital in Tyre.

Hizballah Radio Updates Situation

NC3007082190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] The 'Arafat-Birri groups have resumed their attacks on the Islamic resistance positions and the Iqlim's besieged villages. These groups' activities until this morning were as follows:

At 0140 today, a group from the pro-'Arafat Fatah attempted to advance toward Kafr Milki township but ran into an ambush laid by the Islamic resistance. At 0230, Jarju' township came under violent 120-mm artillery bombardment from the Birri groups' emplacements in Humin and 'Arab Salim. At 0450, the oppressive armed gangs launched a wide-scale attack on the Hamadah Hill combat line and subjected the town to heavy shellfire. The attack coincided with the violent shelling of resistance positions by the occupation posts in Sujud. Between 0500 and 0530, Kafr Milki and Hamadah Hill came under violent bombardment from artillery of various calibers. At 0630, the Islamic resistance mujahidin were able to repulse the attack on Kafr Milki. The clashes on the Hamadah Hill axis were continuing as this bulletin was being prepared.

We have just learned that the towns of Jba', Kafr Fila, and Kafr Milki are now coming under concentrated 122- and 130-mm artillery shellfire orginating from the emplacements of Birri's groups and their allies in Tuffahta and Zifta, accompanied by combing fire from 23-mm heavy machine guns. At 0725, the Islamic resistance mujahidin managed to destroy two vehicles, one carrying a 23-mm heavy machine gun and the other carrying a 107-mm gun, near Buslayya.

A Hizballah media source has stated that the Islamic resistance mujahidin captured 14 members of the 'Arafat and Birri gangs and their mercenaries and killed many others when they repulsed the attackers. The bodies of the dead are still lying on the battlefield.

The source said that leaving these corpses on the battlefield violates all religious and humanitarian norms, adding: We urge humanitarian organizations and the Red Cross to intervene quickly to compel the other party to facilitate the removal of the corpses and to save the lives of some of the wounded prisoners. The source stressed: For our part, we place all our capabilities at the disposal of the humanitarian organizations to undertake this task.

Meanwhile, arrivals from Sidon said a number of dead and wounded members of the Elie Hubayqah group are in al-Hamshari Hospital. They added that in addition to the two members of the Elie Hubayqah forces who were taken to the hospital after they were killed in the Kafr Milki clashes, several wounded people from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party are still receiving treatment in al-Hamshari Hospital.

REUTER said 45 people were killed and more than 80 wounded in the ranks of the 'Arafat-Birri groups and their allies in the fighting which broke out the day before yesterday.

Palestinian Commander Comments

NC3007085490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] According to the latest security reports from the south, violent clashes involving the use of various types of machine guns and rockets have been taking place between Amal and Hizballah on the Kafr Milki combat lines since 0500 today. At the same time, artillery bombardment is being directed against Kafr Fila, Jba', 'Ayb Bu Siwar, Jarju', 'Ayn Qana, Kafr Hatta, (?Kafr Bayt), Sarba, Humin al-Fawqa, and 'Arab Salim.

The reports say the two warring parties have brought in military reinforcements and are engaged in attacks and counterattacks to gain ground.

There are conflicting reports about the casualty toll from the fighting over the last 24 hours. While AFP says 31 people were killed and 96 wounded, REUTER reports that the number of casualties rose to 45 dead and 90 wounded.

A Palestinian commander said the clashes between Hizballah and the Amal Movement will resume in Jarju'. Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the central committee of Fatah-The Uprising, noted that the Palestinian intervention in Iqlim al-Tuffah adds fuel to the fire and inflicts great harm on both the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. He warned against Yasir 'Arafat's games.

Israeli Aircraft Overfly

NC3007090490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over the scene of clashes [in Iqlim al-Tuffah] at medium altitude this morning, breaking the sound barrier.

Fatah Offical Attacked

NC3007104390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Violent clashes are continuing between Amal and Hizballah gunmen on the Kafr Milki combat lines. Heavy machine guns, rockets, and tank artillery are being used in the fighting. [passage omitted]

Hizballah mouthpiece Radio of Light said the party's gunmen foiled an Amal attack on the Hamadah Hill at approximately 1100, which was preceded by a violent artillery barrage. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a Hizballah source urged Amal gunmen to lay down their arms and abandon what he termed the conspiracy because, in his words, they are digging their own graves. [passage omitted]

In another development, journalists said two aides of Fatah official Lieutenant Colonel Yusuf 'Awwad, were killed in Sidon when 'Awwad was attacked as he was traveling on the al-Husayniyah-al-Mujaydil Road this morning.

Amal Issues Statement

NC3007112690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Violent clashes continue to take place in Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly along the Kafr Milki, Kafr Hatta, Kafr Bayt, and Jurnaya combat lines. Various heavy- and medium-caliber weapons are being used.

REUTER reported that the Amal Movement seized two hills overlooking Kafr Milki, Tallat Hamadah, and al-Sakhriyah. Hizballah is waging counterattacks to regain the hills, under cover of intensive artillery and rocket shelling. Kafr Fila, Jiba', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju', 'Ayn Qana, Kafr Hatta, Kafr Bayt, Sarba, Humin al-Fawqa, and 'Arab Salim also came under shelling.

The Amal Movement issued a statement saying that Hizballah groups have been attacking Tallat Hamadah and al-Sakhriyah since 0530 today under cover of artillery shelling directed in particular against Kafr Hatta. The Amal Movement said that its forces have repulsed the attack. The Movement added that it wished to draw the attention of the public and concerned officials to the

fact that Iranian Revolutionary Guards groups have taken part in these battles, in an attempt to escalate the war, broaden the sedition, and provoke our people.

AFP said that at least 31 were killed and 96 wounded in the fighting of the last 24 hours. Security sources spoke of massive concentrations of troops and vehicules, which may indicate that the fighting will escalate.

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] is continuing its consultations with the parties concerned in an effort to establish a temporary truce to evacuate the dead and wounded. ICRC teams have been unable to enter the areas of the clashes because of the ferocity of the fighting.

The Israeli enemy's military planes overflew the south and Beirut, breaking the sound barrier.

Israeli Movements in Border Area

NC3007162890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Travelers arriving from the occupied border area this morning have reported that Israeli armored movements are taking place in most parts of the area. According to reports, an Israeli armored force consisting of 25 vehicles and 150 men has crossed the international border with Lebanon and proceeded to the hills opposite Iqlim al-Tuffah. These movements come in the wake of threats by Israeli Chief of Staff Dan Shamron to intervene should Israel feel that battles there have become a source of danger to it.

Losses Reported

NC3107070990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Tension prevails along the combat lines of Iqlim al-Tuffah amid sporadic exchange of machine gun, rocket, and artillery fire. This has been going on since yesterday afternoon, following the abortive onslaughts by the gunmen of 'Arafat, Birri, Hubayqah, and other partisan forces against the Islamic Resistance positions on the Hamadah Hill under cover of intensive artillery bombardment. The Islamic Resistance fighters repulsed all these attacks and inflicted heavy losses of life and equipment on the attackers, whose main force was completely annihilated.

Coorespondents in Sidon have reported that the bodies of Birri-'Arafat gunmen are still scattered over the battleground, particularly near Hamadah Hill, on whose outskirts the offensive by the motley of gunmen was repulsed. News agencies confirmed that the Islamic Resistance fighters are holding their positions and refuted Birri's Amal and 'Arafat's Fatah claims of advances.

According to preliminary reports on the losses of the attackers after their repeated offensives against Hamadah Hill, the mujahidin destroyed an M-113 troop carrier on which a 23-mm gun was mounted; a Land Rover carrying a 14.5-mm gun; and a jeep carrying a 106-mm gun in Buslayya. The mujahidin also destroyed a 23-mm antiaircraft gun; a vehicle carrying a 106-mm gun; and 107-mm rocket launchers in Kafr Hatta. In addition, two rockets fell on a gathering of the mixed gunmen in Kaft Hatta, killing nine and wounding many others.

In a partial count, AFP reported that yesterday's fighting left five killed and 22 wounded. The agency said the battle, which raged for several hours and involved approximately 10 attacks and counterattacks at noon on the Kafr Milk heights, made little changes on the battleground. The agency added that as they did in the past few days, the pro-'Arafat gunmen took part in the fighting. Citing security sources, the agency said 23 pro-'Arafat supporters have been killed and 90 others wounded since their intervention on the side of the Amal Movement on 17 July. [passage omitted]

Clashes Continue

NC3107143590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah between Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen are continuing intermittently. The fighting is mainly taking place on the hills surrounding Kafr Hatta, Kafr Milki, and Jurnaya villages. Red Cross teams are seeking guarantees for a cease-fire between the two parties to enable them to enter the area and evacuate the casualties.

Nasirite Popular Organization leader Mustafa Sa'd held a meeting with representatives from the Fatah Movement and Hizballah today, during which the conferees agreed on a security truce. The truce has not so far been observed.

Al-Asad Meets Lebanese Maronite Chamber Members

JN3007181290 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] At 1300 today His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received a delegation of independent Maronite members of Lebanon's Chamber of Deputies. The delegation is made up of Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin, August Bachus, and Butrus Harb. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Discussions ranged from the situation in Lebanon and the Lebanese Government's measures to promoting a cabinet decision to enforce the national reconciliation document. His excellency the president stressed to the Maronite delegation that Syria stands behind Lebanon's national reconciliation and backs the efforts of the legitimate government and all Lebanese brothers to implement the national reconciliation document and extend legitimate authority to the entire country.

U.S. Reportedly Expands Israeli 'War Arsenal'

JN2707182590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Palestine Broadcast: From the "Historical Events" feature]

[Text] Brothers on the road to revolution and liberation. One of the paradoxes of the United States' alleged concern for establishing peace in the region is that this concern coincides with a qualitative advance in support and backing for Israel and in strategically expanding its war arsenal.

Zionist War Minister Moshe Arens concluded talks with his U.S. counterpart, Dick Cheney, by signing agreements under which Washington is obliged to finance the manufacture of Israel's Arrow missile. The enemy radio said Arens' talks were successful, positive, and useful—as the radio put it—in terms of continuing U.S. support.

News agencies reported in this regard that Arens' talks in Washington with his U.S. counterpart and other officials focused on strategic military cooperation and the manufacture of the Arrow missile in particular. A U.S. source said that joint working committees were set up to prepare working programs for the next stage. The U.S. defense secretary is scheduled to visit occupied Palestine soon. News agencies also said that the U.S. Administration agreed to continue financing the next phase of the Arrow antimissile. News agencies cited Moshe Arens as saying that Cheney told him Washington was committed to financing 80 percent of the Arrow's cost. Cheney also renewed his country's commitment to what he termed Israel's security and to maintaining the magnitude of U.S. military aid to Israel, which amounts to more than $2 billion.

For its part, the Italian magazine PANORAMA said that Israel has given free rein to its agents to watch and hound Arab scientists and experts who work in sensitive fields and to use force against them in certain cases. The magazine went on to say that Israel is seeking, with financial aid from the United States, to build two new submarines after an agreement with West Germany last January. The two strategic submarines, which are operated by diesel motors, are able to remain under water for weeks. They will cost half a billion dollars, of which the United States will contribute $180 million.

Paper Warns of Israeli Expansion in South Lebanon

JN2907101290 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Damascus, 29 Jul (SANA)—AL-THAWRAH has cautioned against the dangers threatening southern Lebanon as a result of Zionist expansionist ambitions aimed at the land and resources of the south.

In two separate commentaries today, AL-THAWRAH says Israel does not hesitate to declare its aggressive intentions against the south and its determination to swallow it, thus controlling water resources and using them to quench the thirst of the hordes of new immigrants. To accomplish this aim, Israel seeks to empty the south of its inhabitants through a policy of expulsions, deportations, demolition of homes, and transforming the south into a scorched land and an intolerable hell.

The paper explains that Israel intentionally provokes the UN forces in southern Lebanon to put an end to their work and get them to leave because it does not want international witnesses who would expose its savage and aggressive actions.

The paper refers to the UN secretary general's report, which includes two major points: the increased isolation of the occupied part in the south from the rest of Lebanon and the Israeli occupation forces' obstruction of the task of the UN forces in the region.

AL-THAWRAH states that a practical response to Israel's expansionist plan requires a serious Arab stance and support for the Lebanese National Resistance which, supported by Syria, forced the occupation forces to withdraw from the majority of the Lebanese territories without Israel achieving the declared aims of its 1982 invasion. Internationally, the UN Security Council and the United Nations have been called upon to implement their resolutions with regard to Lebanon and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the south.

Press Views Implementation of Al-Ta'if Accord

JN3107102190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Damascus, 31 Jul (SANA)—The three major Syrian newspapers today focus on Lebanese developments and assert that these developments have entered a delicate phase requiring the adoption of crucial decisions regarding extension of the authority of the legitimate government throughout all parts of the country and the implementation of the al-Ta'if accord.

The newspaper TISHRIN focuses on the growing popular Lebanese consensus on the al-Ta'if accord, as well as on Arab support and international backing for it, noting that this growing consensus and backing, along with Syria's cooperation, constitute the natural prelude to achieving national reconciliation and affirming the unity of Lebanon in terms of land, people, and institutions.

The paper refers to the immense support expressed for the statement issued by the national reconciliation government, particularly as regards leaving the door open for all parties to join in once they express clear support for the provisions contained in the al-Ta'if accord so that they can participate in efforts to rebuild Lebanon.

The paper notes the importance of the U.S. position announced by Ambassador Djerejian in which he stressed the need not to link the Lebanese crisis with the al-Ta'if accord and the issue of supporting the Lebanese Government's statement and urged those obstructing the implementation of this accord and statement to step down.

The paper adds: If we were to add to this position the significant Arab and international positions which support the moves made in this regard by President al-Hirawi and the Government of Prime Minister al-Huss, we would feel the extent of the support enjoyed by the legitimate Lebanese authority in its efforts to implement its plans to extend its authority and sovereignty on Lebanese territory.

Under the headline "Implementation of the Lebanese Government's Program is Currently Under Way," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial that the legitimate Lebanese Government has actually opted for a host of measures that would ensure the implementation of its program. In this, the Lebanese Government does not want its efforts to be obstructed by a discordant voice or distracted by political maneuvers which the Lebanese have grown to scorn and hate.

The paper adds that the national reconciliation document and the government statement based on it have become the only prelude for all Lebanese to overcome their ordeal and put their house in order according to the indispensable prerequisites of unity, reconciliation, and liberation.

AL-BA'TH asserts that Syria, with all of its capabilities, will stand beside the legitimate Lebanese authority and Lebanese Government in the measures and means they deem appropriate for implementing the government program.

For its part, AL-THAWRAH, under the headline "The Road to Salvation," affirms that the government program adopted to implement the al-Ta'if document has become the only way for the Lebanese to consummate the salvation endeavor, to put Lebanon on the right track for national salvation, and to plug the loopholes in the wake of Zionist plots targeting the Lebanese land, people, and entity.

The paper adds: A vigorous Lebanon is an asset to Syria and the Arab nation in confronting the expansionist Zionist designs. Besides, Lebanon will show a national and pan-Arab will when it regains its unity and pan-Arab identity. This is an established fact, over which there can be no arguments whenever any aspect of the Lebanese issue is discussed.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying that any headway made by the legitimate Lebanese authority in its efforts to implement the national reconciliation agreement will create landmarks on the road to salvation. The paper adds: It is the road which all honorable Lebanese are taking. The reference here is to the Lebanese who are determined to implement the national accord that will revive the homeland's unity and move Lebanon from the state of infighting and anarchy to an atmosphere of confidence and optimism to help build the desired future.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Says Afghans Hold 'Key to Peace'

BK3007081590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0748 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] New Delhi, July 30 (AFP)—The superpowers can help speed up a settlement of the 12-year-old Afghan war, but the key to peace finally lies with the Afghans themselves, President Najibullah said in remarks published here Monday.

"Of course the decisions of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. (talks) will accelerate a peaceful settlement of the Afghan conflict," the Kabul leader told the HINDUSTAN TIMES daily in an interview.

"However it is the Afghans themselves who should settle the problems relating to them and their country," he was quoted as saying.

The transcript of the interview, conducted in Kabul last Thursday [26 July], was published two days before a meeting in Soviet Siberia between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. According to U.S. press reports, Moscow and Washington could announce an agreement on mutual disengagement from Afghanistan at the talks in Irkutsk.

Mr. Najibullah, who left for the Soviet Union Sunday [29 July] for a medical examination on Moscow's invitation, told HINDUSTAN TIMES editor H.K. Dua that warring Afghan factions should come together to promote peace.

"We Afghans should come together for negotiations and hold a dialogue and pave the way for peace and rehabilitation," he said.

"These efforts can lead to a series of international accords or an international consensus," he said.

"This consensus can include certain principles such as guaranteed independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, its freedom and neutrality, and cessation of foreign interference and the right of the Afghan people to determine their own future."

U.S.- and Pakistan-backed mujahidin groups fighting to topple the Kabul government have previously refused any settlement involving Mr. Najibullah, denouncing him as a "war criminal," and turned down all offers of talks.

The 43-year-old former secret police chief said Kabul hoped any "decisions or conclusions" at the Siberia talks would be based on the spirit of the 1988 Geneva accords and the "realities of the Afghan society." The accords signed by the Afghan and Pakistani Governments and guaranteed by the superpowers paved the way for the Soviet troop pullout from Afghanistan completed last year. They also provided for mutual non-interference, but Kabul has repeatedly accused Islamabad of violating the agreements by continuing its support for the mujahidin. Mr. Najibullah urged the United States to help bring about a political settlement of the Afghan war.

"It (Washington) should help all sides so that they can yield to a dialogue and negotiations so that Afghans are able to sort out their future destiny by electing their government," he said. He again proposed "free and democratic" elections to be supervised by the United Nations and monitored by a joint commission consisting of all parties.

Najibullah's Moscow Visit Linked to Talks

BK3007142090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1407 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Kabul, July 30 (AFP)—President Najibullah's surprise visit to Moscow is linked to this week's superpower talks on the future of Afghanistan, official Afghan sources said here Monday.

"Mr. Najibullah will be at hand for consultations if there is some kind of an agreement between the two foreign ministers on a political solution to the Afghan crisis," a senior Afghan official said.

The Kabul government announced Mr. Najibullah's visit Sunday [29 July], hours after he had left for Moscow on what was described by his office as a "short visit for a medical examination." The 43-year-old president looked confident and quite healthy when he addressed a press conference here eight days ago and had been appearing on television almost daily attending official functions. He flew to Moscow just three days before the summit between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his U.S. counterpart James Baker in Soviet Siberia.

A senior Afghan official said Mr. Najibullah had made it clear that any kind of deal between the superpowers should not exclude the Kabul government and eventually Afghans must be left alone to settle their 12-year-old conflict.

"Moscow will not agree to replace Mr. Najibullah unless through an election, or some kind of a tribal assembly," a Soviet source here said Monday. He said Mr. Najibullah had been able to consolidate himself both politically and militarily since the completion of the Soviet troop pullout from Afghanistan in February last year.

Mr. Najibullah's sudden visit was also his first foreign tour after he survived an armed coup on March 6 by his then Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanai, who has since fled Afghanistan.

Government Spokesman Humayun Mukammel said no replacement for the president has been formally named during Mr. Najibullah's absence.

Officials had said earlier that Mr. Najibullah's planned visit to India within a month was going to be his first foreign trip since the failed coup.

Hatif Named Acting Leader

BK3107062490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0612 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Kabul, July 31 (AFP)—The Kabul Government Tuesday announced that Abdul Rahim Hatif has been appointed as acting president in the absence of Najibullah, who left suddenly for Moscow two days ago. A Foreign Ministry spokesman here said that Mr. Hatif, one of the first vice presidents, will be in charge until Mr. Najibullah returns.

Mr. Najibullah, 43, left on Sunday on what was officially described as a "short visit for medical examination." But official sources here said the tour was linked to the meeting Wednesday and Thursday [1 and 2 August] of Soviet and U.S. foreign ministers to discuss the Afghan conflict. Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze and his American Counterpart James Baker are due to open talks in Soviet Siberia on Wednesday, and diplomats say that Afghanistan's political future may be decided then. Official sources said Mr. Najibullah would be at hand for consultations if a deal is hammered out to resolve the conflict, which has claimed more than one million lives in the past 12 years.

Mr. Najibullah's immediate deputy, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, who is also the first vice-president, is in Moscow as well. Foreign Ministry officials said he left some three weeks ago, also for "medical treatment."

Saudis, Pakistanis Accused of Blocking ICO Seat

BK3107051490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0451 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Kabul, July 31 (AFP)—The Kabul Government Tuesday accused Pakistan and Saudi Arabia of blocking its readmission to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) now meeting in Cairo.

Government Spokesman Humayun Mukammel said here that Kabul was lobbying other Islamic countries to regain its OIC seat, which was given to the Afghan resistance last year. Afghanistan's membership in the OIC was suspended soon after the Soviet military intervention in 1979. Its seat was given to the Pakistan-based Afghan Interim Government, an alliance of seven mujahidin groups.

"We have contacted several (other) Moslem countries, but they say it is Saudi Arabia and Pakistan who are blocking our entry to the OIC," Mr. Mukammel said.

He said President Najibullah had recently written to leaders of Islamic countries explaining the political and military situation in his Asian country and urging them to play a role in bringing peace to Afghanistan.

"The OIC must take the realities into consideration and play a constructive role, like the United Nations, in ending the suffering of Moslem people of Afghanistan," Mr. Mukammel said.

Mr. Najibullah amended the country's constitution in May, officially naming Afghanistan as an Islamic state, in a move designed to neutralise opponents who say that Islam is threatened under his rule. The 43-year-old president's Soviet-backed government is fighting guerrillas supported by Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Iran and the United States.

OIC foreign ministers are to meet in Cairo on Tuesday for talks centred on Soviet Jewish immigration and Kashmir among other issues. Forty-three countries will be represented as well as the Afghan mujahidin and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Rebel 'Foreign Minister' Plays Down Differences

PM3007153990 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 26 Jul 90 p 10

[Interview with Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, "construction and foreign minister in the Afghan mujahidin government," by Muhammad 'Abduh 'Addawi in Jeddah; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] ['Addawi] We would like to be assured about the condition of the jihad and the mujahidin.

[Rabbani] After Russia's departure following the defeat inflicted on it, the mujahidin started to expand the liberated areas run by them. They drew up a strategy to capture the other towns and positions controlled by the enemy. The strategy is based on tightening the siege on the major towns and centers like Kabul and others in order to force the enemy to surrender. The mujahidin will continue to apply this tactic until victory is achieved and until Kabul is captured.

['Addawi] What about the areas already liberated?

[Rabbani] The mujahidin have started to run the services and build schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, dams, etc.

['Addawi] And at the military level?

[Rabbani] Militarily, the mujahidin are now on the offensive, whereas the enemy is on the defensive. And without doubt the attacking phase is more difficult than the defensive phase. The balance of power has been in the mujahidin's favor since the Russians' departure, even though they are still present through their military supplies to the Kabul regime. In fact they have supplied it with more advanced weapons.

But regrettably, the mujahidin are suffering a psychological and media war designed to harm them, undermine their cause, and prevent the establishment of their Islamic state. [passage omitted]

['Addawi] Professor Rabbani, some of those casting doubt say that there has no longer been a jihad in Afghanistan since the Russian Army's departure, and that what is left is merely a power struggle among the Afghans. What is your comment?

[Rabbani] These are some of the lies and allegations promoted by enemies against the mujahidin. The mujahidin did not launch the jihad for the sake of power, but for the sake of elevating God's word, establishing an Islamic state, clearing Afghanistan of the aggressors, and eliminating the godless movement which is seeking to turn Muslim Afghanistan into a communist country. [passage omitted]

['Addawi] Another question to which we would like to have a frank answer: Do the disagreements among the mujahidin affect the jihad on the battlefield?

[Rabbani] We admit the existence of some disagreements, but they are not as portrayed abroad. There are merely minor disagreements which can occur anywhere and within any group. But the enemy is trying to exaggerate them. And for their part, the mujahidin are working to contain any disagreements.

There are fundamental reasons for these disagreements. There are disagreements over ways of running the affairs of the liberated areas, the position on the spreading famine, and other problems left behind by the enemy, who is trying to slyly exploit them in order to divide mujahidin ranks. [passage omitted]

['Addawi] But what about the assassinations exchanged among the mujahidin factions?

[Rabbani] According to my information—and I am close to the reality—there are no reciprocal assassinations; and even if there are any, they are rare cases, and I have no doubt that the enemies of this nation are behind them. As they see the jihad banner advancing and the mujahidin about to establish an Islamic government, they have decided that the march can only be stopped by fomenting sedition. So they have recruited elements to assassinate field commanders or party leaders. We must be cautious about that vile conspiracy. We must seek out and firmly and severely punish the perpetrators. [passage omitted]

16 Missiles Hit Kabul 27 Jul; Four Injured

LD2707161290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Four Kabul citizens were injured today as a result of 16 U.S.-made [as heard] surface-to-surface missiles being fired on Kabul by the extremists.

According to a BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section report the injured persons were transferred to hospitals.

The missiles hit Wards 2, 3, and 5 of the city, causing material losses.

Military Operation Continues in Paghman District

LD2707165890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] A competent source of the general command of Kabul garrison reported to the military section of BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] that the units and subunits engaged in military operations in Paghman district, after breaking the stubborn resistance by the extremists, today captured the whole of Pasha-e and Lolakak villages. They also courageously chased up those armed extremists who could no longer face up to our Armed Forces and who lost their trenches. Since the start of the operation in Pasha-e valley, 114 extremists, including six ringleaders of the bands and four Saudi Wahhabi mercenaries, were crushed, and 123 were injured.

Seven ammunition depots, one foodstuff depot, 36 SAKR-type surface-to-surface missiles, 30 boxes of mortar mines, 15 boxes of ammunition for light weapons, 192 artillery shells, and 150 rocket shells were seized from the enemy. And 15 Dshk's, 12 sets of rocket launchers, eight mortars, 10 committees, and 110 strong trenches of the enemy were destroyed and eliminated.

The report adds that the units and subunits engaged in the military operation are continuing their offensive on the hills around Paghman with high morale for crushing the extremists.

India

Reportage on Outcry Surrounding Forged Letter

BJP Meets To Discuss Crisis

BK3007140390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] The central office bearers of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] today held discussions on the situation arising out of the present crisis in the Janata Dal and the National Front government. The BJP leaders are understood to have considered the party's stand on the issue of alleged forging of the prime minister's letter by the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal. A party spokesman told AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent that the BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, and Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, are to meet the prime minister to discuss the matter.

Janata Dal Urged To Face Problems

BK3007140790 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 18 Jul 90 p 1

[H.K. Dua Article entitled: "Will They?"]

[Text] The Janata Dal has claimed that the crisis which rocked the V.P. Singh government for nearly a week is over now. Actually it has not been resolved. What has been worked out is merely a patchwork solution that is inherently weak at the seams. It just requires another issue and the whole pattern can come off. In any case, the crisis has left its scars that are unlikely to disappear taking into account the kind of men who were the key dramatis personae in the events that nearly brought to an end the life of the 8-month-old V.P. Singh government. These men have vaulting ambitons, conflicting interests and, it appears, are ready to do anything to ensure

lollipops for their sons and sons-in-law. These men are not aware that the nation is already getting fed up with the kind of farces Doordarshan [Television] has been serialising; it cannot sustain the agony of witnessing the rulers' live antics in costume—rural or urban. So absorbed are they in what they are doing that they are not mindful of what can happen when a nation starts feeling bored with its rulers.

Mr. Chautala, despite everything, did again become Chief Minister. It took so much of effort, including a governmental crisis the nation could hardly afford at this juncture, to make his father agree that he cannot remain one with the inquiries about Meham pending. The government has hardly been functioning during the last few days. The bureaucracy's faith in the leadership can be gauged from what is being heard in the corridors of power. The State governments have been watching with concern the developments in Delhi. Foreign governments could not be feeling sure all these days how seriously they should take this great nation of India of 850 million people wanting a due place in world affairs.

Now Mr. Chautala has been replaced by one Hukum Singh. Who does not know that Mr. Devi Lal and and the son needed a proxy who can ensure that Haryana remains a family Jagir [fiefdom]? In any case the Janata Dal leadership does not think it wrong that the man who cannot be Chief Minister is now an all-India General Secretary of the party. The name of the game is consensus politics.

None in the country seems happy with all that has happened. The people have begun to wonder whether the set of rulers with their inflated egos and enormous unconcern for the nation are going to change their ways. They do not know the elementary truth that India, with all its diversities, needs at least a cohesive government which should leave nothing undone to tackle such problems as Punjab, Kashmir, poverty, jobs. If our rulers have learnt any lesson from the crisis they should start pooling their resources to tackle these problems. There is so much to do in the country. Will they? They could begin fighting each other again sooner or later. They could begin looking for new allies and new alignments with the belief that a midterm poll—which they cannot prevent now—will bring them back to power. Do they know that the people do not like rulers who are more concerned about themselves than the nation?

'Hectic Activities' in Scandal's Wake

BK3007161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Hectic activities are on in the capital to resolve the situation arising out of the allegedly forged letter issue. The letter as reported earlier was forwarded by the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, to the prime minister recently. A UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] report says the prime minister today wrote a letter to Mr. Devi Lal asking him to explain how he forwarded the forged letter which he allegedly wrote to the president, Mr. Venkataraman, in 1987.

The central office bearers of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] today held discussions on the present crisis in the Janata Dal. The BJP leaders are understood to have considered the party's stand on the allegedly forged letter. A party spokesman told our correspondent that the BJP leaders, Mr. L.K. Advani and Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, are to meet the prime minister tonight to discuss the matter.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and the CPI [Communist Party of India] have expressed the desire that the crisis in the Janata Dal should be resolved quickly.

The Congress-S, a constituent of the National Front, has urged the prime minister to act firmly on the issue.

The Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, has said there is no crisis in his party or in the National Front Government over the issue. He told newsmen it is wrong to describe this problem as a crisis and added we are confident of sorting it out.

Reacting to the developments, the Congress-I treasurer, Mr. Sita Ram Kesari, said the differences in the Janata Dal seem to be because of the clashing interest of the urban and rural classes in the party. He was talking to newsmen in New Delhi today.

The senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has said that the prime minister and the deputy prime minister should come to an understanding and resolve the forged letter issue. Mr. Chandra Shekhar had a 45-minute meeting with Mr. Devi Lal in New Delhi today. Later, he said it is a matter between the two leaders. An agency report says that the Janata Dal leader feels that the issue apparently had arisen out of some misunderstanding between Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Devi Lal. He said whenever the two leaders wanted they have come to an understanding.

Premier To Handle Issue

BK3107032890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the left parties have given a free hand to the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, to solve the present crisis arising out of the forged letter issue.

As reported earlier, the prime minister has asked the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, to explain how he forwarded the forged letter which Mr. Singh allegedly wrote to the president, Mr. Venkataraman, in 1987.

Hectic political activity continued throughout the day yesterday to defuse the crisis. The prime minister held discussions with leaders of BJP and left parties over a dinner last night. The prime minister held deliberations in the wake of a demand within the cabinet for action against the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal. The

leaders of the BJP, the CPI [Communist Party of India] and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India - Marxist] made it clear that the issue is essentially an internal matter of the Janata Dal and should be decided by itself. The meeting was attended by Mr. L.K. Advani, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee—BJP, Mr. Jyoti Basu, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet—CPI-M, and Mr. Indrajit Gupta and Mr. Farooqi of the CPI.

Later, the CPI leaders told newsmen that it is an internal matter of the Janata Dal.

The BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani said his party's support to the National Front government would continue irrespective of the present situation. He said the matter could be settled at the meeting of the National Front chief ministers with the prime minister in New Delhi today.

Informal Talks Continue

BK3107080290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Informal consultations are continuing in New Delhi among top leaders of the Janata Dal and National Front to defuse the situation arising out of the forged letter issue. The chief ministers of the four Janata Dal-ruled states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Orissa are already in the capital and are likely to meet the prime minister this afternoon.

The union cabinet is understood to have met this morning. However, our correspondent says the forged letter issue was not on the agenda.

As already reported, the prime minister has asked the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, to explain how he forwarded the forged letter which Mr. V.P. Singh allegedly wrote to the president in 1987. The prime minister yesterday held discussions with the leaders of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and left parties, over dinner. Both BJP and the left parties have given a free hand to Mr. Singh to solve the impasse facing the Janata Dal.

Gujral Calls for New Dialogue With Pakistan

BK2707142590 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has called for a new and forward-looking dialogue with Pakistan. Opening an international conference on peace, security, and cooperation in South and Southeast Asia in New Delhi today, he asked the ruling elite of Pakistan to remove the doubt from their minds that Indians do not accept Pakistan as a firm political reality. He said it is in the Indian interest that Pakistan remain a strong, united, sovereign, and democratic state friendly toward India and other neighbors on the terms of mutual benefit. Mr. Gujral said if Islamabad comes up with a list of Pakistan's needs for better friendship with New Delhi, it will be looked into with attention and sympathy.

On Sri Lanka, the minister said India will not interfere in the internal affairs of the island nation though the renewed fighting there is a matter of serious concern.

Referring to SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], Mr. Gujral hoped that Myanmar [Burma] and Afghanistan will join the association.

On Lankan Affairs, Regional Relations

BK2707133390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has reiterated that India will not like to intervene in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka though the current situation in the island nation is a matter of serious concern. He was inaugurating a two-day international conference on peace and cooperation in South and Southeast Asia in New Delhi today. He said bilateral relations with Sri Lanka are now better than at any time in the last seven years.

About Indo-Pakistan relations, Mr. Gujral stressed the need for opening a new and forward-looking dialogue.

Referring to SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], the external affairs minister said the ensuing summit will help step up regional cooperation.

Number of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees Nears 48,000

BK3007163590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Nearly 48,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees have arrived in India during this month. Over 2,300 refugees landed in Rameswaram today. Our Madras correspondent reports that during the past few days refugees have been arriving at the rate of more than 2,000 every day.

Resolution Urges Burmese Regime To Transfer Power

BK3007162090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] India has urged the military regime in Myanmar [Burma] to immediately release leaders of the democratic movements from jail and hand over power to the elected representatives without further delay. In a resolution adopted today, the Consultative Committee of Parliament attached to the External Affairs Ministry also requested that Government of India raise this issue in the United Nations and other international forums at the earliest. The committee expressed its deep concern at the continued incarceration of the leaders of the movements of democracy, including the leader of the National League for Democracy, Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi. It expressed its firm support for the people of Myanmar in their struggle for democracy and freedom.

Earlier, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, briefed the committee about the recent visit of the prime minister, Mr. V. P. Singh, to Moscow and various diplomatic efforts launched by India in tackling global problems.

Helium for Nuclear Field Use Discovered

BK2307120090 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Scientists of the Bhabha Technical Research Center, who are carrying out nuclear study at the variable energy cyclotron center in Calcutta, have discovered the precious element helium in some hotsprings in and around Bakeshwar near Calcutta. They have also succeeded in using this helium in nuclear technology.

Doordarshan correspondent Vudhyan Sanyal has the details:

[Begin recording] The helium in its impure form is recovered from these hotsprings and is brought to the variable energy cyclotron center in Calcutta. Here the helium is purified in the laboratory. The purified helium is put into the cyclotron which breaks up into charged alpha particles. The invisible particles which carry energy up to 80 million electron volts are taken to the experimental area through a beam transport system. Here the alpha particles cause nuclear reactions and break up the substances under study which may be something like a piece of metal or even a malignant human cell. Scientists watching computer monitors in a separate room have direct access to the results of these nuclear reactions in the experimental area. This indigenously built cyclotron center under the Bhabha Atomic Research Center is the only one of its kind in Asia except those in Japan. Its facilities are used by all the leading research institutes in India. [end recording]

Government Approves 'Major' Import Policy Changes

BK2107060190 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Jul

[Text] The government has approved major changes in the import policy, which will lead to a saving of 1,000 crore rupees in foreign exchange. An official press release issued in New Delhi says the aim is to curtail unnecessary import of capital goods, raw materials, and components required by industry and to promote domestic production. This follows a detailed discussion the commerce minister, Mr. Arun Nehru, had with officials of his and other concerned ministries.

It was decided to allow deemed export benefit to the supply of machinery produced indigenously against licenses granted to exporters under the concessional duty scheme. The benefit of concessional duty of 25 percent would be extended to the import of machinery by manufacturers on accepting additional export obligation.

A major policy review was also undertaken to cut unnecessary imports.

Committee Recommends Modifications to Helicopter

BK2607163790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] The experts committee which inquired into the safety record of the Wasteland helicopter has suggested certain technical modifications before they allow it to fly again. The committee, headed by Dr. Z.A. Hussaini, director of technical development and introduction in the Defense Ministry, made the suggestion in its report submitted to the Civil Aviation Ministry recently.

11 Dead, Bridges Burned in Kashmir Violence

BK3007161990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1610 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Jammu, India, July 30 (AFP)—Extensive Moslem militant violence in Kashmir has left at least 11 dead, five injured and three bridges and a number of buildings destroyed, official sources said Monday [30 July].

They said one of the bridges burned in the incidents late Sunday [29 July] and Monday was of strategical importance as was mostly used for military transport in the sensitive northern border state.

State authorities in the meantime Monday ordered an indefinite closure of schools and colleges in Srinagar, the state's summer capital, amid reports of plans by students to launch an organized anti-Indian campaign, the sources said.

Eleven people, including five militants, were killed in exchanges of gunfire between militants fighting for the secession of Kashmir and security forces across Jammu and Kashmir state's Moslem-majority Kashmir Valley, the sources said. They did not give details.

A powerful bomb planted by militants exploded on the ground floor of the Jammu and Kashmir state government headquarters in Srinagar, leaving at least five officials injured and damaging the building, the sources said. They did not say if the injuries were serious.

Earlier, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA [PTI] said militants shot dead a Hindu businessman and an unidentified youth in Srinagar. Elsewhere in the valley, police found the body of a Moslem abducted by suspected militants a day earlier in a forest in Pulwana District, PTI said. Security forces also pulled out an unidentified bullet-riddled body from Jhelum River in the border town of Baramullah early Monday, PTI said. PTI said militants, who India alleges are supported by neighbouring Pakistan, also chopped off the arms of a Hindu on a busy road linking Srinagar with Leh town, in Ladakh District on the border.

Militants burnt three bridges at Srinagar's Safakadal, Alikadal and Ashaibagh areas, the sources said here in this winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir. They said the Ashaibagh Bridge on the national highway linked Srinagar with northernmost Ladakh District on the border with Tibet and was mainly used for transporting military hardware.

A rash of some 15 incidents of arson mostly blamed by officials on militants destroyed a palace of a former Kashmir maharaja (prince), 23 houses, a mosque and a school in the valley, the militant stronghold. The burnt

Kabutarkhana palace, built by the late Majaraja Hari Singh, was located alongside the Dal Lake, renowned foreign tourist attraction.

Meanwhile, some 130,000 employees of the Jammu and Kashmir government, including a number of senior officers, had decided collectively to refuse to accept their salaries for July to protest disciplinary actions threatened by the state government against some of their colleagues, official sources said. Some 137 government staff had been warned of disciplinary actions for taking part in a strike held earlier to protest alleged excesses by security forces during an anti-militant drive.

At least 961 people have died so far this year in violence linked to the Moslem separatist campaign in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state. Pakistan, which disputes sovereignty over Kashmir, controls one-third of the scenic region. India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir.

Officer Among Five Killed in Punjab 30 Jul

BK3107041590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] In Punjab, five persons, including a company commander of the BSF [Border Security Force] and a terrorist, have been killed in separate incidents since last night.

In Gurdaspur District, a BSF company commander, Rajendar Singh, and a constable died and five others injured, when the jeep in which they were traveling was blown off by a landmine planted on the road. The BSF party was on its way to village Dale Chak in Fatehgarh Churian area for reinforcement, where the terrorists had earlier opened fire.

Seven 'Terrorists' Among 14 Killed in Punjab

BK2907162790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] In Punjab, 14 persons, including seven terrorists, have been killed in separate incidents since last night. A terrorist was killed in an encounter with the security forces near village Tarauri in Patiala District. Two terrorists were killed in village Malikpur in Abohar area and two other terrorists killed in Bhinderkalan of Ferozepore District this morning.

In Ropar District, the terrorists tried to ambush the deputy superintendent of police of Mohali when he was on his way to Kurali. One of the terrorists, who was injured in the exchange of fire, later consumed poison and died. In another encounter with the security forces, one terrorist was killed near village Murar in District Kapurthala. Elsewhere in the state, terrorists shot dead seven persons. Meanwhile, security forces have arrested nine terrorists from various places in the state.

Iran

Va'ezi on 'Positive Impact' of Naqqash Release

LD3007192790 Tehran IRNA in English 1017 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA—French Ambassador to Tehran Christian Graffe met with Deputy Foreign Minister in Charge of Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi here Sunday. Va'ezi praised the recent humanitarian move by the French government on releasing the Lebanese Muslim combatant Anis Naqqash on Friday [27 July] and added that it has had a positive impact on Lebanese Muslim groups. Va'ezi also expressed the hope that the move will be effective in solving humanitarian issues in the middle east and will speed up humanitarian efforts of the Islamic Republic. Repeating Iran's opposition against terrorism, Va'ezi said that the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that all hostages from all nationalities including those from Iran must be released as soon as possible merely on humanitarian grounds. He added that all those who can help in this regard should not hestiate in doing so.

Anis Naqqash and four of his associates were pardoned and released from a Paris prison after ten years of imprisonment.

Official Says Egyptian POW's To Be Freed

NC3107075090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, Iranian chief delegate to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers' meetings to be held here, has declared that Iran will release all the Egyptian prisoners of war held in Iran as a goodwill gesture and a gift from the Iranian people to the Egyptian people.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, he said the prisoners will be released during a visit by a delegation of al-Azhar 'ulema and members of popular organizations to Tehran. He noted that the preparations for the visit are currently being arranged.

Taskhiri dismissed as rumors claims on relations between Iran and Israel, referring to the ties of struggle between the Iranian and Palestinian revolutions as well as Iran's support for the Palestinian people until they recover their occupied territories.

Taskhiri called for the need for a comprehensive development in all the countries overlooking the Gulf, including Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, adding that the relations between Iran and the Arab Gulf States are extremely good.

In response to a question on the presence of foreign fleets in the Gulf, Hojjat ol-Eslam Taskhiri stressed the need for the withdrawal of all these fleets, whether they are

U.S. or otherwise, emphasizing that maintaining security in the Gulf is the duty of the Gulf countries.

Regarding the foreign hostages in Lebanon, the Iranian official said the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns taking foreigners hostage and stressed that Iran used its moral influence over some parties in Lebanon in a humanitarian gesture to seek the release of some hostages. However, he added, the United States failed to put any pressure on Israel to release the Arab and Iranian hostages who have been kidnapped in broad daylight by Israel.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Taskhiri is the official in charge of international relations in the Iranian Revolution Command and is an adviser to President 'Ali Khamene'i.

'Can Envision' Relations With Iraq

JN3007172790 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 29 Jul 90 pp 1, 15

[Text] Cairo—Hojjat-ol Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, head of Iran's delegation to the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Cairo [and director of international relations at the Islamic Revolution Command Bureau], has told AL-BAYAN that Iran is prepared to hand over Egyptian prisoners of war to Egyptian men of religion and Islamic figures so that this can be a gift from the Iranian people to the Egyptian people removed from formal procedures.

He said Iran rejects the emigration of Soviet Jews as a criminal act. Allowing this emigration is in itself unacceptable, he added.

On the peace process with Iraq, Taskhiri said: "We are optimistic, especially because the exchange of letters between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani created a good climate for a meeting of the two countries' foreign ministers in the presence of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar." "The process is going well, and we can envision relations between the two countries being established soon," he added.

On Iran's relations with the United States, he said there are no signs affording hope that any kind of relations with the United States may be established. He noted, on the other hand, that his country finds no obstacle to developing relations with the USSR, especially after the recent historic changes in that country.

Paper Views Cairo Conference Issues

NC2907103190 Paris AFP in English 1024 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 29 (AFP)—A meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) opening Tuesday [31 July] is an opportune moment for Iran to criticise Saudi Arabia's handling of the hajj and to develop ties with Egypt's religious figures, a pro-government Iranian newspaper commented here Sunday.

ABRAR said that the Iranian delegation to the OIC's annual ministerial conference in Cairo will "inform" the gathering of the "weakness of the Saudi regime in administering the holy Islamic sites (Mecca and al-Madinah located in Saudi Arabia). [no closing quotation mark as received] The newspaper accused Saudi Arabia of blocking an Iranian effort to place on the agenda a proposal that an international Islamic commission administer Mecca and al-Madinah instead of Saudi Arabia.

Reliable Egyptian sources have said Iran's delegation at the OIC could use the conference to voice anew accusations that Saudi Arabia was "responsible for the tragedy of the Mina tunnel."

Saudi Arabia has said that 1,426 Moslems were killed July 2 in a tunnel stampede near Mecca, with King Fahd saying the tragedy was the "will of God."

The pro-government ABRAR daily said next week's OIC talks will offer Tehran a "good opportunity to be present among Egyptian religious figures."

"This presence should contribute to relaunching the budding ties with Egyptian religious circles and to open a common chapter in spiritual relations for the benefit of Moslems," ABRAR said.

Tehran, which has not had diplomatic relations with Cairo since 1979, will be represented at the OIC meeting by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, the deputy director of the para-governmental Organisation of Islamic Propaganda (OIP) [as received]. The OIP has been responsible for promoting the Islamic revolution abroad.

Iran stormed out of the 1988 OIC ministerial conference that approved Saudi-proposed quotas for the hajj (Moslem pilgrimage) each year to Mecca and al-Madinah. Since then Iran has sent low-level delegations to the OIC.

Perez de Cuellar Meets With UN Ambassador

LD2807134290 Tehran IRNA in English 0929 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, July 28, IRNA—United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Iran's ambassador to the U.N. Javad Zarif assessed the process of Iran-Iraq peace negotiations and ways of implementing the Security Council Resolution 598 in a meeting here Friday [27 July]. The U.N. chief briefed Zarif on the latest accomplishments since foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq held a face-to-face talk in Geneva earlier this month on which Perez de Cuellar submitted a report to the Council on July 13. Perez de Cuellar in his report has made it clear that he was ready to visit Tehran and Baghdad in a bid to speed up establishment of peace within the framework of the resolution.

During the meeting, Zarif who is the chief assistant to Iran's permanent envoy to the U.N., praised the report and said that it was indicative of Perez de Cuellar's

intent to further activate the process of the peace talks. The ambassador stressed Iran's view that the U.N. chief played the esential role in implementation of the resolution and establishment of peace. He announced Tehran's readiness to continue its cooperation and dialogue with Perez de Cuellar's special envoy.

At the same time, Perez de Cuellar who had arranged the meeting, lauded Iran's cooperation both with him and his special envoy. He stressed that execution of the U.N. resolution was the only way to establishment of peace between Iran and Iraq. He added that he was fully prepared to make every possible effort which could help activate the negotiations.

Iraqi ambassador too is expected to hold a similar meet with Perez de Cuellar early next week to discuss peace negotiations. [sentence as received]

Respect, Nonintervention Among Oil Producers Urged

NC2807193890 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] OPEC ended its 87th ministerial conference in Geneva by issuing a statement setting the new price of the organization's petroleum at $21 per barrel, instead of $18, and the production ceiling at 22.491 million barrels per day. This step is important in the context of unity of views among the member states after four years of floating OPEC oil prices. If the OPEC states adhere to their set production quotas, it can then be said that OPEC has regained its status and influence. It will also be possible to be optimistic about an end to the looting of peoples' resources that is carried out by the international oil companies. [passage omitted]

It is no secret that some of Iran's neighbors have, we regret to say, served the interests of the major Western oil companies in the past few years instead of thinking of their peoples' interests. They flooded the oil market as a result of their unlimited production and caused considerable damage to oil-producing countries. Undoubtedly, such an erroneous policy must be confronted regardless of the cost. Those oil producers who sold their resources cheaply as a result of their erroneous policy must cooperate with the others to reach a reasonable agreement on controlling production and determining prices. [passage omitted]

The Muslim peoples of the Middle East, particularly the peoples of the oil-producing countries, must realize that they must preserve their natural resources without a spirit of hostility and tension. Otherwise they will be the victim of looters from East and West. In these delicate circumstances, the Middle East countries must hold fast together and take collective steps on the path of protecting their interests in accordance with the rules of mutual respect and nonintervention in each other's internal affairs. At the same time, we must not forget that the looters of the peoples' oil are the defenders of the Zionist entity that kills dozens of Muslims daily with its treacherous bullets. In this connection, Tehran's interim Friday imam has asserted that the OPEC countries lose $100 billion a year into the pockets of the oil looters as a result of their disagreements.

If we take into account the satanic ploys of the looters of resources, then confronting these devils requires Third World countries, particularly the Middle Eastern countries, to understand international realities. At the same time, they must know that interference in the internal affairs of others can lead to regional instability. They must stand firm if an oil-producing country is subjected to the pressures of the monopolistic Western companies and prevent the recurrence of instability in the international oil market and a preponderance of supply over demand.

Past experiences have proved that the looters of the peoples' resources never stop scheming and conspiring. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a major oil-producing country, hopes that its OPEC neighbors will show considerable enlightenment and not give the major oil companies any opportunity to confront their schemes and plots. Islamic Iran, which suffered eight years of imposed war, knows that mutual respect among countries, recognition of internationally drawn borders, and nonintervention in the affairs of others helps the establishment of regional stability, calm, and security. These countries can adopt collective decisions to protect their natural resources from the looters only in an atmosphere of security and stability.

The recent OPEC decision is a positive step toward preserving the interests of oil-producing countries. The president of the Islamic Republic made this clear in his Friday sermon, when he said: We must not forget that if the oil wealth had belonged to the Westerners, they would have sold oil to Third World countries at $100 a barrel.

KEYHAN Cites 'Peculiarities' of Geneva Session

LD2807204790 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—In a commentary on OPEC's 87th session which concluded in Geneva Friday [27 July] the Persian daily KEYHAN said Saturday that OPEC owes its success in Geneva to extensive efforts by Iran, and to Iran's adoption of an active diplomacy condusive to the best interests of the organizations.

The commentary said in part: "The 87th session of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) concluded in Geneva Friday agreeing on the base price of dlrs 21 a barrel and the production ceiling of 22.5m bpd [barrels per day] as the combined daily output of the organization's member states. According to the decisions of the organization's 87th assembly the new base price is dlrs three higher than the previous rate.

"The 87th assembly of OPEC was marked by several peculiarities which made it different from its predecessors. Those peculiarities may be summarized thus:

1. The diplomatic interface between member states of the 13-member organization for attaining a common understanding was almost unprecedented during the past ten years: among those efforts may be mentioned the visit to Tehran, Baghdad, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia by the oil minister of Algeria Sadek Boussena, and the Assembly by oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Kuwait and Algeria, and the Assembly in Jeddah by oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Qatar.

2. The new policy and outlook adopted by Iraq towards oil-related issues, which was the product of the post-war situation in Iraq... Today Iraq is aiming to increase oil prices which in fact distinguishes her oil policies from the past, and which on the one hand places her beside Iran and on the other hand against Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia.

3. The 87th session of OPEC may also be considered a successful experience for Iran which is trying a more active presence at international forums.

"It can safely be said that had it not been for the initiatives of Iran's Foreign Ministry and its arrangement of negotiations with Iraq and Kuwait, and had it not been for the timely visits to Algeria, Libya and the United Arab Emirates of our oil minister the decisions of the 87th session of OPEC would not have been as promising as they have been. This is true since the situation ruling in OPEC member states has remained the same as it was in the past.

"Some oil sources have attributed the success of OPEC's 87th session to Iraq's revised position in favor of higher prices and Saudi Arabia's mediation. But to ignore the contribution of Iran's diplomacy to the success of the OPEC's session would be unrealistic.

"Iran's active diplomacy in the region caused changes in Iraq's policies which have turned the balance in favor of the members states of OPEC which have advocated higher prices.

"The new situation brought Iran, Iraq, Libya, Algeria, Venezuela, Indonesia, Gabon, and Nigeria into alignment making it difficult for Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia which have thus far advocated higher production and lower prices as a policy.

"The decision on dlrs 21 as the base price for each barrel of oil was still far from Iraq's proposal of dlrs 25 a barrel, and close to Iran's proposal for dlrs 20 p/b [per barrel]. The decisions of the organization's 87th session indicates the realistic approach to the issue by Iran which was the product of its extensive activities for a proper analysis of the situation."

Papers Regret Amal-Hizballah Clashes

LD3007095690 Tehran IRNA in English 0848 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—An English-language daily Monday regretted intensified fighting between two Lebanese Shi'ite groups, the Amal and Hezbollah, and stressed "the fighting has only weakened the Islamic movement".

In an editorial today, 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' deplored the fact that all negotiations, mediation efforts and peace agreements have so far failed to cure "this bleeding wound" in the Lebanese Shiite community. It noted that the root cause of the conflict should be sought in the relations between the two groups, their goals and outlooks vis-a-vis the issues surrounding the Lebanese Shiite Muslims.

"Hezbollah is gaining strength in the Shiite community as a new force - a trend speeded up by the influence of the Islamic revolution in Lebanon," wrote the article. This, the daily added, "has prompted reaction from the Amal movement which until then was regarded as the only established political-military organisation in the Shiite community to check the rise of a new rival to power."

It regretted that a rivalry which could contribute to the promotion of the Shiite community, had unfortunately assumed a "destructive trend with the two groups divided more than ever." Moreover, the daily stressed, failure of the two groups in settling their disputes, was the main reason for foreign agents to succeed in taking advantage of the Amal-Hezbollah differences.

The referred to involvement of visible foreign hands in Amal-Hezbollah fighting, "like in any other event occurring in the war-torn Lebanon."

Israeli bombers recently pounded Hezbollah-held region in Iqlim al-Tuffah and soon after the outbreak of clashes, pro-'Arafat forces were deployed in an area between the two forces and even captured some positions there, it added. The daily further stressed that the move by 'Arafat should have taken place most likely with prior coordination with conservative Arab states. "This assumption is strengthened when we remember the recent visit of an Amal foreign relations official to Riyadh," noted the article.

Paper Says Fighting Aids Enemies

LD3107121690 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Terhan, July 31, IRNA—A Persian daily warned Tuesday that the recent Amal-Hizballah clashes were serving the goals of enemies of the Shi'ite Muslims.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in its editorial describing the ongoing fighting between the Shi'ite groups of Lebanon as catastrophic said that this is what the satanic powers and especially the Zionist regime and Maronites are after. The paper said that as soon as the Zionists and the Maronites, both of which benefit immensely from the clashes, feel that

the clashes are subsiding or the Islamic movement is holding the upper hand, they fan the flames of the fighting. The Shi'ites and their organisations have sufferred irreparable damage due to infiltration of corrupt and subservient agents into their ranks, said the daily.

On role of the Islamic movement in Lebanon, the daily stressed that the Lebanese are heavily indebted to this movement, for if it was not for the movement the Zionists would by now reached the gates of Beirut and have even entered the country.

The Zionists and Maronites having suffered blows from the Islamic movement want to take a revenge and it is a pity that a Shi'ite group is providing them with the necessary means, concluded the daily.

President Meets New Greek, Sri Lankan Envoys

LD2907125790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Dhimitrios Vidhoris, the new Greek ambassador, this morning.

During the meeting the new Greek ambassador presented his credentials and declared his readiness to review ways of improving mutual ties. While conveying expressions of sympathy from the president, government, and people of Greece over of the earthquake in our country, he stressed the importance of further expanding mutual ties.

Referring to the fact that Greece was the seat of philosophy in the past, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Iran is willing to expand her cultural ties with Greece.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also received Mr. (Bandi de Silva), the new Sri Lankan ambassador. At the meeting, while presenting his credentials and conveying the greetings of the Sri Lankan president to our country's president, the ambassador said that the countries have enjoyed good relations during the past 10 years. He called for more meetings between the two countries' officials.

While expressing his reciprocal greetings to the Sri Lankan president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked the Sri Lankan ambassador to strive for the deepening and expansion of ties between the two countries.

Meets Envoy to UN

LD2907200590 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA—Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi Sunday met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and briefed him on the trend of the Iran-Iraq peace negotiations. Informing the president of the U.N. chief's intention to tour the region, Kharrazi said the visit would undoubtedly have an important effect on implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598. He also read a report on the aid donations by the Iranians and other Muslims in the United States for the survivors of the June 21 earthquake in northwestern Iran, saying one million dollars had been so far paid to a bank account opened in the States for the purpose.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked all the donors, and issued guidelines to the visiting representative.

Austrian Envoy Brings Message for President

LD3007195590 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—Austrian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Erich Maximilian Schmitt met today with First Vice-President Hasan Habibi submitting him a message of the Austrian President Kurt Waldheim for his Iranian counterpart.

Regarding the Iran-Iraq peace talks, Schmitt said his government was for the full implementation of the U.N. Security Council Rsolution 598. He also hoped Austria could help the peace process in the region. Later, the Austrian official called for expansion of bilateral political, cultural and economic ties.

Stressing Iran-Austria friendship, Habibi thanked Schmitt for the message. He also expressed hope that direct Iran-Iraq peace talks in the context of the [UN] Resolution 598 would bear fruit and that a comprehensive peace would be established between the two nations. Then, said the vice-president, tranquility would return to the Persian Gulf and the rights of its littoral states would be restored.

Schmitt arrived here last night.

Meshkini Explains Changes in Experts Assembly

LD3007213290 Tehran IRNA in English 1123 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., IRNA—A ranking religious personality Friday [27 July] underlined importance of the Assembly of Experts and Council of the Guardians as the two bodies which had rendered worthy services to the Islamic revolution and the republic. Addressing the Friday prayers congregations here, Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini elaborated on the decisions made in the recent session of the Assembly of Experts and explained the reasons for the changes.

On the venue of the session, Ayatollah Meshkini who is also head of the Assembly, said that due to lack of adequate facilities in the holy city of Qom, previous venue of the sessions of the assembly, the experts agreed to hold it at Imam Khomeyni mosque in Tehran, next to the president's office.

As for the other decision, changing criteria on qualification of the candidates in the forthcoming elections of the Assembly, Ayatollah Meshkini noted that previously full and complete acqaintance with principles of religious

jurisprudence was a must. This, he added, made only a few of the professors of the theological centers eligible for the post.

In the last session of the assembly, he added, the provision on full acquaintance with religious jurisprudence was omitted and replaced by familiarity with concepts of religious jurisprudence.

As for the other change, he said that previously competence of the experts had to be approved by the three prominent professors of the Qom theological center. However, from now on the assessment will be made by the Council of the Guardians.

This, Meshkini said, was done for two considerations: It put the Qom theological professors under moral obligations, and some of them as they themselves have stated either did not want to get involved in social and political matters or lacked the needed insight on these issues, both of which are of immense importance and demanded by the post.

In his second sermon, the ayatollah deplored the bloodshed between the Lebanese Amal and Hizballah forces and called on the Iranian officials, as well as Lebanese and Syrian ulema to put an end to the current fratricide. He stressed that all Lebanese Muslim and militant forces should unite their ranks and instead of fighting one another should confront the usurper Zionist regime.

Guardian Council Meets Diplomats; Velayati Speaks

LD2907195490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The ambassadors and the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran to foreign countries met with the jurisconsults [fuqaha] and the lawyers [hoqoqdanan] of the Council of Guardians, today.

At the meeting, which was also attended by the first vice president, Mr Habibi, Foreign Minister Velayati delivered a speech in which he noted that the present conditions of the Iranian embassies abroad were, praise be to God, optimum. He said: A gathering of the ambassadors and the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be convened annually in Tehran, to brief them on the policies of the system and provide them with the necessary advice.

Next, Mr. Mohammadi-Gilani, the secretary of the Council of Guardians, elaborated on the duties and the moral and political behavior of the ambassadors and the charge d'affaires which must be compatible with the conditions set down by the system and the country's policy, which has emanated from the guidelines set forth by the great leader and the president. He further advised the Foreign Ministry representatives to observe the moral and spiritual guidelines.

Cabinet Hears Report on Government Finances

LD3007041590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The cabinet met 29 July. Important events in the country were discussed, and Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh submitted a report on the sessions of OPEC oil ministers in Geneva and said: At these sessions, substantial understandings were reached over the adjustment and gradual increase in the price of oil and also the control of quotas and oil production. He added that if the move toward realistic prices continues it will bring about a fulfilment of the rights of nations that have oil.

Then Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Nurbakhsh submitted a report to the cabinet on the government's financial situation during the first four months of the current year [beginning 21 March 1990]. According to this report the government's income from the finance, oil, and gas departments stands at 1.2816 trillion rials which is an increase of 62 percent; the rest of the income sources stand at a level of 624.1 billion rials, which is an increase of 391 percent when compared to last year.

The government's expenditure in the first four months of the current year, separate from current credits, equals to 1.1999 trillion rials, an increase of 19 percent; development credits equal 412.1 billion rials, an increase of 87 percent when compared to last year. The report mentions that incomes and savings should be in balance with the current year's budget. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Addresses Radio, TV Workers

LD2907202190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, in a meeting with the officials of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning described the radio and television as a university for explaining and expounding the principles, concepts, and messages of pure and revolutionary Mohammaddan Islam and emphasized the sensitive and important nature of this media.

The leader of the Islamic revolution said that mass media was one of the most crucial centers and organizations of any society, and stated: The Voice and Vision is a sensitive, important, and determining organization in the life of people. The impact of the work, effort, and activity of this organization is very swift and widespread. The daily improvement of radio and television programs and work in the future too, is a necessity; and the gap between the current Voice and Vision and what is expected of it, will be narrowed through the efforts of sympathetic managers and devoted correspondents [kargozar] and through necessary initiatives and a strong sense of responsibility.

The respected leader referred to the tendency and desires of Islamic and revolutionary countries to emulate the spiritual and revolutionary nature and achievements of

the Islamic Republic's system, and added: A system which is a product of a great revolution and a progressive and advanced school of thought, which is administered in an excellent political manner, has a lot to say, and this should be conveyed to its devoted listeners throughout the world by using the country's media and communications organizations. In this context, the Voice and Vision has a very important mission and role to fulfill.

He referred to the point that Islam today carries the most beautiful, most meaningful, and most beneficial messages for mankind and said: The wolf-like [gorg-sefat] powers of the world have sharpened their teeth toward the Islamic and revolutionary government of Iran. Under such circumstances, the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran should emphasize confrontation with the propaganda of arrogance and enemies of the system, and by showing resistance in the face of the enemies' propaganda against the revolution and the accepted concepts; it should promote dear Islam, the revolution, and the system as the principle viewpoints.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said that one of the main duties of the Voice and Vision was to help people's development and advance their sense of honor and integrity and to defend spirituality. He said: In the present world, where politics is at the service of plundering people and where wealth has become the ultimate desired object of worship; in a world where politics and international relations and even relations between governments and peopls have been based on duplicity, deception, and tyranny, and in a world where a government such as the U.S. Government is proud of causing a tragedy such as Hiroshima, a system has come into being which is based on divine Islamic values and has presented faith and spirituality to the world in a clear and realistic framwork. A great country and nation which was for centuries the victim of profit-seeking and meddling policies, has today rediscovered its identity and through the establishment of a divine Islamic system has decided to confront the antagonistic provocations of the world's oppressors and power-wielders.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, while expressing appreciation for the ernest services rendered by the personnel of the Voice and Vision, emphasized that the endeavors of the correspondents of this media can be considered as a jihad [struggle] in the path of God, and said: The Voice and Vision should present the beautiful points of the revolution to their viewers and listeners, and should act like an Islamic university by explaining and elaborating the principles of pure Mohammaddan Islam, including its messages, sources, concepts, and its mind-developing teachings.

The esteemed leader, in conclusion, stressed the necessity for paying greater attention to the constructive concepts and teachings of Islam in the Voice and Vision as the fundamental inclination of the system and the necessity for the technical expansion of the Voice and Vision.

On the basis of this report, before the remarks delivered by the esteemed leader of the Islamic revoltion, Mr. Mohammad Hashemi, head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during brief remarks, introduced the visitors and presented a report on the activities of different sections of that organization to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. He expressed the hope that the Voice and Vision may be able to turn into a model of programs, contents, techniques, and world coverage for different countries of the world.

The report also states that Mr. Do'agu, head of the Policy Formulating Council of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and also the headquarters deputies and managers from different sections of the Voice and Vision in Tehran were present at this meeting.

Papers Urge IRIB To Confront 'Propaganda'

LD3107091790 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—Two morning dailies Tuesday urged the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) to improve the quality and quantity of its programs in order to attract more viewers and listners inside and outside the country. The call came two days after Ayatollah Khamene'i's remarks in an address to a group of top officials of the IRIB in which stressing [as received] that radio and television should confront the enemies' propaganda.

In an editorial the daily 'ABRAR' noted that in the contemporary world "Any social, political and economic move begins with propaganda. The world arrogance and the enemies could be confronted only through appropriate knowledge on nature of this phenomenon."

It further stressed: "The IRIB is not the organ of a certain group or party, but rather the organ of the Islamic Republic which embodies a population of 50 million."

Therefore, the article added, in improving its program, the IRIB should take into consideration the taste and outlook of the Iranian society at large.

Commenting on the same subject, the English-Language 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' pointed to the massive propaganda attacks launched against the Islamic revolution since its establishment in 1979. In its editorial 'Paths for Influence of Foreign Propaganda Must Be Blocked', the daily recommended revolutionary governments to be well prepared to tackle the flow of propaganda via the mass media, TV and radio broadcasts in particular.

"Among other initiatives which will automatically neutralize the influence of foreign propaganda, is the improvement of living standards in Iran, as a model Islamic state," wrote the article.

It noted that the enemies of the revolution were "exploiting the existing unfavourable economic condition in the

country" and stressed that elimination of economic problems would also block the way for the penetration of foreign propaganda.

14,000 Arrested on Drug Charges in June-July

LD2707131990 Tehran IRNA in English 1205 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Information Minister 'Ali Fallahiyan said in a report to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Thursday that during the June-July period as much as seven tons of narcotics had been seized from traffikers in various parts of Iran.

He said during the same period about 14,000 persons had been arrested on various charges of trafficking, or unauthorized intake of banned intoxicants and that 41 pieces of fire arms had been seized from them.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said to executive members of the Drug Control Organisation in the same meeting that addicts would be rehabilitated at a special center in the Persian Gulf island of Hendourabi and that Deputy Vice President in Charge of Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh would oversee construction of related facilities therein.

All addicts sentenced to prison terms will hereafter spend their prison terms in Hendourabi Island.

Military Maneuvers Under Way in Piranshahr Region

LD2707113190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The Zagros field maneuvers with the participation of Mahabad's Brigade No. 3 and with the cooperation of the Air Force and the Army Aviation [havaniruz] of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army are being staged in the Piranshahr region from 23 to 28 July.

The participating units in the maneuvers will stage various operations to stop enemy infiltration into the [country's] borders, occupation of positions and confrontation against unexpected situations.

According to the report of the Central News Unit correspondent from the region, at the end of the Zagros field maneuvers, staged to increase the fighting capability and experience of the forces of Orumiyeh's Division 64, the weakpoints and possible shortcomings of the participating forces will be assessed and inspecting officers will provide the necessary instructions toward their rectification.

*Government Seeks Better Relations With Arabs

90AS0193C London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 90 pp 1, 9

[Text] The Islamic Republic has made fresh efforts to improve its relations with Arab countries. The trip to Kuwait by 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the regime's foreign minister, is being seen as an effort to normalize relations with nations such as Kuwait, Egypt, and even Saudi Arabia. Even after the Mina Tunnel tragedy, the officials of the Islamic Republic refrained from taking a hard line against Saudi Arabia.

In his trip to Kuwait, 'Ali Akbar Velayati gave the amir of Kuwait a letter from Hashemi-Rafsanjani. After Velayati's trip to Kuwait, as of Tuesday 3 June, after a nine-year interruption of maritime traffic between the shores of Iran and Kuwait, once again the maritime passenger and freight lines went into operation between the two nations and the first Iranian ship docked in Kuwait.

On the other hand, it was disclosed in Cairo that in the near future there would be an improvement in relations between Cairo and Tehran, and that next month 'Ali Akbar Velayati will take part in the meeting of foreign ministers of Islamic nations in Cairo. The newspaper AL-MASA' of Cairo, which published this report, wrote that on this trip 'Ali Akbar Velayati will bring a message from Hashemi-Rafsanjani for Husni Mubarak and will invite 'Ismat 'Abdul-Majid, the Egyptian foreign minister, to Tehran. These trips will probably reestablish political relations with Egypt, which have been cut off since 1979. There are now several thousand Egyptian prisoners in Iran who were captured by Iranian forces during the Iran-Iraq war. It is said that after 'Ali Akbar Velayati's trip to Cairo, it is possible that a group of these prisoners will be freed and returned to Egypt.

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC RADIO and other Iranian media refrained from using harsh terms to attack Arab leaders during the recent earthquake. For the first time in 10 years the word "monarch" has been used to refer to King Husayn, and they have used a polite tone in reporting the news. Some news agencies have called the sending of aid by the Arab nations as a positive psychological factor for smoothing the path to normal relations between the Islamic Republic and the outside world, and for ending the regime's isolation.

Relations with America

The publication AL-SHIRA' of Beirut, which was the first to report the trip by McFarlane and Colonel Oliver North to Tehran, announced last week that good progress is being made in the talks between the Islamic Republic and American officials to improve relations, and they have reached a sensitive stage.

AL-SHIRA' writes that an official representative of the American government is living in Tehran now and is talking with Islamic Republic officials to resume sales of spare parts and weapons to the Iranian army.

Political experts consider the climate of readiness to improve the Islamic Republic's political relations with the Arab nations of the Middle East to be the result of progress in peace talks between the Iran and Iraq regimes.

*Over 1700 Schools Destroyed in Earthquake

90AS0193B London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] The terrifying earthquake to the north of Tehran in the provinces of Gilan and Zanjan destroyed more than 1,755 schools. Based on reports from the earthquake-stricken areas the damages were so extensive that the buildings absolutely cannot be repaired and must be razed and rebuilt.

The Islamic Republic's deputy minister of education for development and chief of the National School Construction, Expansion, and Equipment Organization announced early last week that more than 1,755 units in cities and villages were ruined.

This official told news correspondents: The earthquake destroyed 1,120 units in Gilan with 6,757 classrooms, and another 1,183 units were 50 to 90 percent destroyed. He added: There were 635 educational units completely destroyed in Zanjan Province, and in addition to those at least 637 other educational units were damaged. The Islamic Republic's deputy minister of education and training emphasized that the damaged schools cannot be repaired, and therefore they must be razed and rebuilt.

*Per Capita Income Reportedly Drops One-Third

90AS0193A London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 90 4

[Text] Per capita income in Iran dropped to one-third the pre-revolutionary level in 1989. Among the numerous problems facing the Islamic regime of Tehran, the bankrupt economy is the main issue bringing chaos and disruption to the lives of the people.

In reality it may be said that the people of Iran are becoming poorer and more empty-handed every day. Currently the regime's leaders are pinning their hopes on the Five-Year Economic Expansion Plan. Economic experts believe that even if this plan is implemented with the utmost perfection and precision and if it achieves its goals, the Iranian economy will grow a maximum of 8.1 percent. Thus in 1994, meaning in about four years, every Iranian will be about 38 percent poorer and more destitute compared to the period before the revolution. If this plan does not succeed at the rate expected and ends by bringing only 2.8 percent growth to Iran's economy, when the plan ends in 1994 every Iranian will be more than 50 percent poorer and more destitute compared to the period before the revolution.

David Hearst, analyst for THE GUARDIAN of London, who has recently returned from Tehran, published a detailed report on the disfunctional political and economic conditions prevailing in Iran under the leadership of the Islamic regime. He writes: All of 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's efforts to improve political relations with the West, come to terms with Iraq, obtain foreign loans, and to encourage the people and the government organizations to increase domestic investment are mainly aimed at making a success of the Five-Year Development Plan. Even so, after nearly a year of his presidency, the hope that he would be able in practice to make the people happy and optimistic has turned to despair.

Elsewhere in his report, David Hearst notes that disgraceful economic conditions and aberrant social behavior in the Islamic Republic have expanded so much that everyone believes the corruption prevailing in society and its dimensions is far greater than during the time of the shah before the revolution. He related the story of Ghaffari and how he registered the Starlight Stocking Factory while expressing opposition to improper veiling, and wrote that the newspaper RESALAT has accused Hadi Ghaffari of corruption in every respect and of committing un-Islamic acts.

Rial Falls Steadily Against Foreign Currencies

THE GUARDIAN added: The rial is falling steadily against the reputable foreign currencies, particularly the dollar, and the cost of living is rapidly escalating.

Michael Sheridan, Middle East analyst for the newspaper INDEPENDENT of London also reported in detail for the newspaper's readers on his observations and views after returning from Tehran. At the beginning of his report he referred to the fact that the "revolution is more bankrupt than before and Hashemi-Rafsanjani is seeking to deemphasize Khomeyni." He writes: The campaign against improper veiling being waged by the revolutionary guards has made life most miserable and uncomfortable for women. Even under Hashemi-Rafsanjani's presidency the women are being rounded up in the streets and taken to remote parts of the cities to be humiliated and beaten by thugs. The corpses of those executed on charges of smuggling are still to be seen hanging from trees and lamp posts, saying good morning every day to those passing by in crowded, chaotic Tehran.

Sheridan also writes: All these things are being done to divert public attention from the problems of life and the ruined, disorderly economy to other issues.

Michael Sheridan adds: Inflation has wiped out the savings of the people, and it has left the poor and the destitute, the very people the revolution promised to help, even poorer and more destitute. The hovels in south Tehran wallow in filth and misfortune. In the past 12 years, the population of this city has swelled from five million to more than 10 million. The capital of Iran, now the home of about one-fifth of the nation's entire population, displays clear evidence of the conditions afflicting the cities of the Third World: an exploding and massive population, enormous traffic, lack of sewage and running water, shortage of electricity, aberrant behavior, crimes and misdemeanors, are all features and attributes drawing the attention of observers in these cities.

$3 Billion in Food and Import Subsidies

Elsewhere in his report, THE INDEPENDENT analyst discusses damage caused by the recent catastrophic earthquake. He writes: Iran's recent earthquake, which

killed more than 36,000 people and reduced to rubble a great number of villages and cities, doubled the nation's economic problems and this will add to the enormous costs of rebuilding the destruction caused by the eight-year war with Iraq.

This newspaper adds: Other time bombs are awaiting the preachers. To keep the people happy, the regime annually spends more than three billion dollars on food and import subsidies, and there are indications that next fall the Islamic Republic will have problems with payments.

Continuing his report, Michael Sheridan writes: The country produces only half the wheat needed by the people each year, and indications are that grain growing conditions this year were not good. The earthquake in north Iran destroyed part of the rice fields and paddies in Gilan Province and the shortages could lead to rebellion by a discontented public, as they have in the past.

The analyst adds: Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani understands trade and business quite well. He has made a personal fortune by forming a company producing pistachios and other commercial activities. His associates and family, who have been given suitable positions in the government, are eagerly working to expand their influence and accumulate wealth and money, and they have Hashemi-Rafsanjani's support in doing so. These days there is talk of freedom for trade and business and limiting the problems and administrative obstacles to these matters.

Even so, there is no sign that the preachers or their representatives understand how to solve the economic problems besetting the people. A confidential report obtained from the International Monetary Fund states that officials of the World Bank have asked the Islamic Republic regime to eliminate the multiple rates for converting Iranian money to the major foreign currencies.

Elsewhere in his report, Michael Sheridan writes: While the poor and destitute are suffering acutely from the prevailing economic and social conditions in Iran, these conditions have also produced a class of elites and millionaires, and experts see this as one of the most interesting developments of the Khomeyni era. Experts have called the phenomenon prevailing in the Iranian economy the "culture of the dollar."

This writer notes that although the official foreign exchange rate is 70 rials to the dollar, a dollar trades for up to 147 tomans on the streets in the vicinity of the British embassy in Tehran. As soon as the Islamic government obtained a lucrative International Monetary Fund report, it established another meaningless rate for converting rials to foreign currencies.

THE INDEPENDENT analyst added: The paper-shuffling system and the Islamic Republic administrative organization, which took shape in a way to create employment for supporters of the mullas, cannot release its grip on the nation's employment laws without cutting off the slender thread of support from the regime's allies.

Pakistan

Minister Says Islamic Law Bill Not Acceptable

BK2707123290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The federal minister for women development, Begum Rehana Sarwar, has stressed the need to make the Shariat [Islamic law] Bill acceptable to all. Talking to PPI [PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL] in Islamabad today, she said it is not acceptable as it presents (?affront) to the people belonging to different schools of thought.

11 Parties To Oppose Bhutto

BK3007134090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1321 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 30 (AFP)—Eleven political and religious parties have formed a united front to force the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to accept shariah, or Islamic law, in Pakistan, party sources said Monday [30 July]. The parties, which met Sunday [29 July] in Lahore, selected fundamentalist opposition deputy Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi to head the movement and Senator Sami ul Haq, sponsor of the shariah bill, as its secretary general, the sources said. The bill, adopted by the opposition-dominated Senate in May, is to be debated early next month in the National Assembly, the lower house, where Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has a majority.

Calling for the "Islamization" of Pakistan's judicial, economic and education system, the bill has become a major issue in the country where 96 percent of the 110 million people are Moslems. The ruling PPP fears that the bill sponsored by representatives of the majority Sunni Moslem community could antagonize the minority sects, especially the Shi'ites. The government has also warned that the bill could create a "legislative chaos" for the government and administration while stripping the parliament of its powers.

But to avoid outright rejection of the sharia bill—which could be politically costly—the PPP wants to amend the controversial clauses, according to party sources.

The meeting in Lahore, capital of the opposition-dominated Punjab, set up two committees comprising MPs and religious leaders to coordinate with different sectors of society and to lobby MPs, the party sources said.

A lawyers' group in Lahore has served a legal notice on the National Assembly speaker to prevent him from opening a debate on the bill. Abdul Basit, president of the Lawyers' Front for the Defence of the Constitution, has contended that the house was not empowered to consider the bill as it amounts to amending the constitution. The front has warned that the speaker would be responsible for the full cost of litigation if he allowed tabling of the shariah bill.

A general meeting of the Lahore High Court Bar Association scheduled Sunday to discuss the shariah bill was interrupted when some 200 supporters of the bill stormed the hall, newspapers reported. The protestors had come to the court to witness proceedings on a blasphemy suit filed against Ms. Bhutto by fundamentalist leaders after she reportedly said that applying strict Islamic punishments—such as amputation of a limb for theft—might not be proper. A number of lawyers who supported the bill joined the protestors, leading to an exchange of words and a minor clash between rival lawyers, the reports said. The meeting was suspended by the pro-PPP bar association President Raja Mehmood Akhtar, but supporters of the bill later adopted a resolution condemning his move as "un-Islamic" and rejected a resolution against the bill passed earlier by the bar association.

British Delegation To Assess Kashmir Issue

BK3107013290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] A three-member British parliamentary delegation headed by Sir John Wheeler arrived in Islamabad today to assess the current situation in Kashmir. On arrival, the leader of the delegation said the British Government strongly supports Kashmiri people's right to decided their future in accordance with the UN resolution envisaging plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir state. He said the British people share concern over the worsening situation in Indian-held Kashmir and persecution of Kashmiri people by Indian forces. Sir John Wheeler hoped that the Kashmir issue between Pakistan and India would be resolved peacefully through dialogue.

Meets Ishaq Khan

BK3107125990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said that Kashmir is the best case to test the commitment of the civilized world to the principles of freedom and justice and its resolve to live by the UN Charter. He said this while talking to a three-member delegation of the British parliament which called on him in Islamabad today. The president said that the world has a moral duty to take serious note of massive violations of human rights in occupied Kashmir. It should arouse public opinion against atrocities being committed on the Kashmiri people who are demanding the rights promised to them at the highest international forum. The president exposed the nature of the excuses being resorted to by India to deny the people of Kashmir their right to self-determination. He said a neutral analysis of the problem and a realistic approach are needed to resolve the issue which has strained Pakistan-India relations from the very beginning. The president stressed that a real and durable peace cannot be established until a permanent solution of the core issue is sought. The president categorically announced that Pakistan will continue its efforts for a peaceful political settlement of the dispute.

Sir John Wheeler, leader of the British delegation, assured the president that they have no doubt that Pakistan wants a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue and it is not fomenting hostilities. He said that the solution of the Kashmir issue lies in granting the Kashmiri people their democratic right to self-determination.